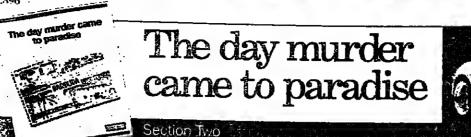
MDEPENI





The surface of Mars is

a sterile permafrost. Any life which evolved

during warmer times

may have retreated

up to 1km into the

planet's interior to

heat sources

live off underground

TUESDAY 30 JANUARY 1996 How men can learn to relax

Health, Section Two

-If there is life on Mars, this is it-

WILL BENNETT

A stalker who had been following a woman for four months raped her in her own home in a violent attack which lasted two hours despite the fact that she was supposed to be

Stalker

raped

woman

protected

by police

in her thirties who lives near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, was badly injured during the rape and was so traumatised she was unable to tell police about it for more than a week.

Yesterday Cambridgeshire Police defended their protection operation and Detective Superintendent Tony Rogers, the officer leading the inquiry, said that he was "comfortable" with the way they had handled the

about the security measures hut the woman was not under 24 bour guard and is thought to have been given an alarm which she could set off if she felt threatened.

The stalker calls himself Chuck, which is possibly short for Chartes, and is believed to come from the Huntingdon area. He is described as white, aged 28 to 30, six feet tall with hrown shoulder-length hair and a ring in his left ear.

The rape was the culmination of a campaign of terror which hegan when the woman was having a cup of coffee at a hotel last September. The stalker approached and made a pass.

Over the next four months be regularly followed her and twice confronted her. Once he accosted her in Huntingdon and efore Christma proached her outside her home and punched her in the head, knocking her to the ground. He also sent her threatening letters

Detective Superintendent Rogers said: "On 16 January the woman was at home around lunchtime when the same man entered her home and carried out a sexual attack on her which

I can only describe as frenzied."
Man. Tapp, spokesman for
Cambridgeshire Police, said:
"We had in place a range of seus at a moment's notice."

Living nightmare, page 3 Leading article, page 14

under police protection. The victim, a young mother

inquiry. He refused go into details

and left answerphone messages.

curity measures which we had agreed with her were sufficient. This did not include 24 hour protection hut there were arrangements for her to contact

IN BRIEF

Nuicear tests stopped France approunced an end to its nuclear weapons tests in the South Pacific yesterday.

Job-hunters massacred Eight men died when gunmen attacked people queueing for work in Johannesburg. Page 9

Today's weather

Cloudy and cold with some



Major taunts Labour over crime record

Bitter attack on 'hypocrisy'

DONALD MACINTYRE

John Major last night stepped up a Tory attack on Opposition "hypocrisy" over crime, in the face of gibes from Labour's leaders that the Government had descended "into the gutter" by branding them the "villain's

In exchanges which presaged a prolonged and potentially vicious general election campaign, the two parties conducted a day-long war of words over what both sides see as the key political battleground of law and

Hours after Tony Blair, the Labour leader, had accused the Government of "sinking into the gutter", the Prime Minister, undaunted, launched his attack on Labour with a litany of law and order measures brought in by his Government and opposed by Labour.

Mr Major's attack, in a speech to the Conservative Political Centre last night, came after furious Commons exchanges earlier in the day. John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, accused ministers of "abuse, in-nuendo, and slurs", and Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, said Labour's self-projection as tough on crime was "a classic example of

hypocrisy".
The Tory h traditional territory of law and order showed every sign of being a co-ordinated effort - in the wake of the Cahinet's meeting on political strategy last week - to capitalise on signs that Labour's opinion poll lead on the issue may have been curbed by improved crime figures.

ahead of the Tories on an issue with which the Conservatives led through most of the 1980s. MORI opinion poll figures suggest that the lead on law and or-

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR

Transport Correspondent

The captain of a British char-

ter plane with 229 people on board collapsed and died at the controls as the aircraft was de-

scending towards Malaga air-

port, it was revealed yesterday.

The first officer of the Britannia Airways jet landed the aircraft with the body of the pi-

lot still strapped into the seat

Roger Attenborough, 54, died from a suspected heart at-

tack while the Boeing 757 flight

from Luton was at around

12,000 feet, less than 15 minutes

der narrowed from around ten Labour show themselves in to six per cent between Sep-tember 1994 and July of last year. The Tories are as determined to close the lead as

Labour are to widen it. Ministers are already aiming to put Labour on the spot with their White Paper on minimum sentences for violent and sexual offences, which Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, intends to publish before Easter with a view to introducing a Bill in the Autumn - and quite



possibly a second reading before the general election.

Labour has made it clear it will not decide its position unto the White Paper has been published, although spokesmen ve made it clear that the sentencing proposals do not ad-dress the problem that - in the case of sexual crimes - offences have increased while the numbers of those caught and convicted have not.

The Prime Minister mocked Labour for having abstained on the last Criminal Justice Act -Although Labour remains which gave the police new rights to stop and search, new court powers to clamp down on hail bandits and allowed for drug testing in prisons."

He added: "Day by day

Holiday jet lands safely

as pilot dies at controls

taken off at 3 15pm on Sunday, proceeded normally. Captain Attenborough did not collapse

on the the aircraft's controls be-

cause it was in the "descent phase" and both pilots were therefore wearing their full har-

nesses. Most of the passengers

were unaware that anything

had happened until after the

down, resuscitation attempts

were made but the pilot was de-

ctared dead by the local coro-ner. The first officer, who has

not been named by the airline.

had radioed ahead for medical

assistance. All first officers are

trained to handle flights on

Captain Attenborough, mar- aboard.

After the plane touched

their real colours. And the colour they reveal is nut soft focus blue. It's the colour of envy

and hypocrisy."
On the forthcoming sentencing proposals he said: "I believe most people will support this approach. They will see it as fair. And so do I. You might have thought this would be common ground without op-ponents. So would 1 but we would be wrong ... No matter what they say they persistently

do something else."

Mr Prescott earlier challenged Mr Heseltine, to backbench cheers, to confirm that: Since 1979, hurglary has increased by 160 per cent, theft from vehicles by nearly 200 per cent and violent crime by 400 per cent. That's the real Tory

"Isn't that why you resorted to ahuse, innuendo and slurs over the weekend to hide the real truth about crime? Wdl you now take this opportunity to apologise to this side of the House for the untruths you told yesterday and to the British public for your Government's ecord on crime?"

But Mr Blair, campaigning in Hemsworth, West Yorkshire, declared: "It dehases public debate in this country to say that Labour are supporting the criminals. I will not engage in that to get into the gutter with Mr Major and his Cabinet."

Gordon Brown, who accused Mr Major of taking the political "low road" with his speech, added that the Government was acting as if it was the Opposition, while Labour unveiled new policies. Mr Blair meanwhile amplified Labour's education policy with a speech warning of a "Blade Runner" scenario, typified by "ghettos of low opportunity."

Tory fire, page 2

had joined the airline in 1969

and had been a captain for 20

is also a pilot, said: "It has come

as a complete shock. Dad was

fit and well and passed all his

six-month medicals with flying

Heathrow occurred in June

1972 after Stanley Key, the 52-year-old pilot of a Trident car-

rying 118 people, had a heart at-tack at the controls following an

argument with colleagues. He

apparently fell on the controls

two minutes after take-off, caus-

ing a fatal stall. The aircraft

crashed near Staines killing all

The worst disaster at

One of his sons, Royd, who

vears.

White worms on Red Planet may prove we are not alone

'Black smokers' on

analogy to Martian

a complex array of

white worms which

prey upon primitive

bacteria which may

be the ancestors of

living organisms.

including giant

the Earth's ocean floors.

This may be the closest

conditions. The smokers.

sulphurous water, host

volcanic fissures emitting hot

TOM WILKIE Science Editor

We are not alone. Life almost certainly evolved on Mars and may still thrive deep beneath the

But, scientists believe, it is more likely to be giant white worms than little green men. Later this year, the first of a 10year-long series of space probes will be launched to the Red Planet to hunt for fossil evidence of life on Mars. A scientific conference in

London will hear this week that life may have begun on Mars at almost the same time as it started here on Earth some 3.8hn years ago. But scientists believe that as Mars - far more distant from the heat of the Sun - started to freeze, living organisms may have retreated deep into the planet's interior seeking the warmth of

volcanic "hot springs" to supply them with the energy to sustain It is even possible that life here on Earth might have start-

ed as a "cross-contamination from Mars", as Professor Paul Davies of Adelaide University will tell the conference, organised by the Ciha foundation.

In 1911, a piece of Mars known as the Nakhla meteorite fell to Earth in Egypt - killing a dog - and more than 500 tons of Martian material falls on to the earth each year. Primitive bacteria could have hitched a ride on rock fragments crossing interplanetary space and seed-

ed life on Earth, he says. Jack Farmer, a senior scientist with the NASA-Ames Research Centre, said: "We are returning to Mars for the first time in 20 years. This year is the 20th anniversary of the Viking missions which looked for evi-dence of extant life."

The Viking probe which landed on Mars did not detect "a single organic motecule" Dr Farmer said, even though it was sensitive enough to detect one part in a hillion.

After the failure of the Viking probe to detect signs of life, the consensus was that surface conditions on the Red in volcanic hot springs and Planet "were not conducive for life as we know it," added Dr Farmer. Mars was too dry, any water was frozen in permafrost, and intense ultraviolet radiation bathes and sterilises the surface.

But some 3bn to 4hn years ago there was liquid water on the surface of Mars, which has left its mark in channels and valleys on the surface. This represented "a window

of opportunity for life to originate. At the same time as it started here on Earth, it could have originated on Mars," Dr Farmer said. But he warned that researchers may have to drill from 100m to a kilometre under the surface to find living organisms on Mars, and this would be beyond the technotogy of the space probes cur-

rently planned What has changed scientists' views over the 20 years since the Viking mission has been the discovery here on Earth of primitive forms of life which do not need the heat of the sun to sus-tain themselves but which live

"hlack smokers" on the sea bed, and strange white worms graze upon them. According to professor Karl Stetter, of Regensburg University in Germany, these archaic

around ocean thermal vents.

Bacteria thrive in the hot sul-

phurous environment of these

hacteria form the very roots of the tree of life itself - they may be the ancestors of us all. Similar creatures may have evolved to live on hydrothermal springs on Mars, according to

Malcolm Walter of Macquarie University, Australia. Professor Walter explained that early life on Earth would have formed "getatinous colonies of bacteria encrusting

columns on the sea floor". However, during the Earth's early history, "they built up bacterial reefs - stromatolites and some of the biggest reefs on earth today were built by hacteria, not coral", he said. These stromatolites represent the earliest fossil remnants of living

creatures on the Earth.

from tanding in Spain.

A spokesman for Britannia said flight BY 476A, which had

next to him.

BUSINESS 16-18 COMMENT 14,15 CROSSWORD 24 GAZETTE 12 LAW REPORT 12 ONE LEADING ARTICLES 14 LETTERS 14 OBITUARIES 12 SHARES 19 SPORT 21-24 UNIT TRUSTS 20



ARTS 8-11 CHESS 22 CROSSWORD 22 FASHION 12.13 HEALTH 4-7 LISTINGS 20.21 MEDIA 14-17 REVIEWS 11 TELEVISION & RADIO 23,24 WEATHER 21





Blair 'fast-tracking' brings Tory fire

JOHN RENTOUL Political Correspondent

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, pressed ahead with his plans for bright children last night in the teeth of hostile fire from Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, and some – but not all - teaching unions.

Mr Blair tried to move the education debate on from the issue of selective schools, raised by Harriet Harman's decision to

Southwark Cathedral, south London, he said Labour was "refusing to go back to the 11plus hul refusing too to make do with uniformity". Outlining plans to "fast-track" able pupils by moving them up a year in subjects they are good at, he said: "It is important that we break down the rigidity in our system that assumes all pupils learn at the same speed in diffcrent subjects - the rigid equation of ages and stages."

grammar school. In a speech at mean 12-year-olds suddenly becoming sixth-formers, but it does mean bright childreo being stretched instead of being bored in subjects where they have a particular aptitude." The speech was seized on by

Mr Heseltine in the Commons, who claimed Mr Blair was advocating streaming. Mr Heseltine quoted a speech by the Labour leader last June: "Streaming, with its rigid dis-

Mr Heseltine commented: "This isn't so much a case of accelerated learning - this is accelerated hypocrisy."

Mr Blair's aides said his

peech last year distinguished between "streaming", which Labour still opposes, and "setting", which the party supports. Streaming divides pupils into classes by general ability, while setting divides pupils by ability in a particular subject. "Accel-

one of the main teaching unions, the NASUWT, said fasttracking was "half-baked".

He added: "The schemes themselves produce huge organisational problems for schools. It can work for some individuals in certain circumstances, but there is no way we can wave a magic wand and ... pretend that we are going to have some national answer."

But Doug McAvoy, leader of the rival NUT, welcomed the

themselves to be able in a particular subject, then they ought to be able to move ahead faster than the others, if that's to

their advantage," he said. Fred Forrester, deputy general secretary of the Educational Institute of Scotland, the main Scottish teachers' union, pointed out that there had been no streaming or selection in Scotland since the early 1970s.

But all pupils in Scotland are igned one of three "standard grades" in each subject from age

Nigel de Gruchy, leader of "If a particular youngster shows 14. Children are taoght in different "sets" if there are enough

Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, said a Labour government would not ban streaming. "We are not talking about banning things, we are talking about eocouraging this ap proach which we want to be developed a lot more," he said.

taking a particular subject, "It is notable that mathe-

maticians are keener on extending setting than teachers in other subjects," he said. A spokesman for David

Pros and cons of system

Taxation and Commerce Union.

Mr Franklin's lawyers is expected in about two weeks. Claire Hood arrest

Detectives investigating the killing of Claire Hood, 15, in Cardiff a year ago arrested Neil Owen, 19, at his home 100 yards from where she lived in the St Mellons area of the city. Claire was raped and then beat-en to death and following the discovery of her body police took DNA samples from 2,100

Black detective's

A hlack police officer who claims he was the victim of racial discrimination by his bosses, has accepted an out-of-court settlement said to total £30,000. Peter Franklin, a detective

with more than 15 years' expe-

rience, alleged that he suffered

discrimination in his annual

performance review, affecting

both his career and pay. But on

the eve of the industrial tribunal

hearing, the Metropolitan Po-

lice agreed to settle the claim.

It is understood that there is no

admission of any liability on the

would confirm or deny the £30,000 figure. A joint statement from Scotland Yard and

Yesterday, neither party

part of police.

racism claim

Girl, 13, found safe

Maxy Sweeten, 13, who disanpeared after catching a hus after school last Thursday was found safe by police near her home in Bexhill, East Sussex. and reunited with her parents.

Typist's injury award Kathleen Tovey, 48, of Redditch, Worcestershire, won a record £82,000 damages for repective strain injury sustained while working as a typist for the Inland Revenue. A compensation scheme for RSI sufferers has now heen negotiated between the IR and the Public Services,

Ronald Cooke

The salary of Professor Ronald Cooke, vice-chancellor of the University of York, is £89,671. including allowances. The figure of £105,000 given in yes-terday's Independent included pension contributions.

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We find talent and give the children confidence' nior School is an anomaly, is

JOJO MOYES The extent to which Grove Ju-

best demonstrated by the first two things visitors will see. One is the heavy steel shutters that pull down over every donr and window, testament to the most recent riots and a lo-

cal hurglary epidemic that is "going through the roof". The other is a photocopied letter pinned to the noticeboard, dated October 1995, from a passenger on a local bus who says he has just watched three pupils in succession give

up their scats to adults. I would like to thank you and congratulate you for the example of good behaviour and courtesy shown by your pupils."

Grove Junior, as Tony Blair has apparently noticed, is no ordinary inner city local authority school. Four of its 11-year-old pupils are taking GCSE while five have gone on to Oxford and Cambridge. Every week a hundred of its 730 pupils voluntarily attend the Children's University on Saturdays, some of them travelling across Birm-

Not had for one of the most many of its pupils are those who have already been expelled

from other schools. On entering the school huildings - set one on each side of a run down red hrick terraced street - it is clear that Grove Junior refused to be a product of its environment. The walls are lined with paintings and poetry, the atmosphere is warm and welcoming and pupils and teachers talk animatedly in the corridoors.



Life in the fast track: school tries to offer children a culture in which they can participate and be challenged in specific areas

support.

the midlands. Especially when have developed a culture in which children can actively participate. They know they are listened to," said Dr David Winkley, the school's head-

master for twenty years. "Where they come from is irrelevant. All we're doing is identifying talent and giving children the confidence and self belief to ensure they use it."

It is this, in particular the school's practice of providing "fast track" teaching for chil-

The thing everybody no- tain subjects, that has most at- dren can feel positive about economically deprived areas of tices about this school is that we tracted lony Blair's attention. themselves, "Dr Winkley Dr Winkley is keen to em- added. phasise that "fast tracking" and its remedial opposite "learning

support groups" are restricted only to subjects. We are not streaming children and taking them away from their peers for the whole of the day, but offering children with the talent in specific areas the chance to challeoge them-

"We've got support groups and fast track, yes, but they're in a context in which the children who show aptitude for cer-

And many of these children have good reason not to. Some. he said, had severe behavioural difficulties having been sexually abused or experienced

violence at home. "They're very difficult children with an awful lot of prohlems," he said. To help them, the school has employed the first trained counsellor to head a specialist unit in a junior school to give the children intensive

The positive attitude of the grounds of some of the kids." other pupils, he says, tended to rub off on them eventually. 'It's intectious," he said.

Grove Junior was not always such an education paragon. Tweoty years ago, when Dr Winkley took it on, it had suffered "all sorts of problems".

"I don't think anyone else wanted the job," he says mod-"He turned it around," said one member of staff. "This is the worst bit of Handsworth but it's a lovely atmosphere in here, es-

she looked forward to coming to school. "The other kids are friendly and the staff are nice," she said. She had been moved into fast track maths which was good, she said. It isn't her favourite sub-

backgrounds.

That's English," she said. "We're doing philosophy and how to construct an argument."

This is reiterated by the chil-

dren themselves, most of whom

come from ethnic minority

Shantelle Simpson, 11, said

THE UNITED NATIONS, FIFTY YEARS OLD.

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Patient released to attack again

A violent schizophrenic indecently assaulted two women pensioners after being released into the community less than a year after a court ordered he

psychiatric hospital. Nelson Anya, 37, described as "a danger to the public in ecneral and womeo in particular", was sent to a secure psychiatric unit by an Old Bailey udge vesterday - again with instructions he must he held "without limit of time".

Judge Beaumont warned: "It goes without saying, in view of what happened before, that the the IRA. public expect great care to be taken. He is going to a regional secure unit and will stay there until he is better and he will oot be allowed into the community until a mental health review trihunal has considered his case."

Anya admitted indecently assaulting the women, one 65, the other 70, near or inside their homes in north-west London on two separate occasions.

"They were terrifying sexual attacks on defenceless ladies," the judge said.

At the time of both offences, Anya had failed to allend outpatient hospital appointments and take his medication, the court was told.

In September 1991, Anya had been detained under the Mental Health Act with a Section 41 restriction that he should be held indefinitely. However, he was released in July of the following year. Some time later he complained of hallucinations and was given medication which kept him stable until he began missing the hospital appointments.

Irish peace: Fresh moves to defuse election row

pecially considering the hack-

Trimble 'ready to talk with Sinn Fein'

the proposed elections.

John Bruton, the Irish Prime

Minister, also tried to take the

heat out of the row, which

threatened to sour relations

between London and Duhlin af-

ter Dick Spring, the Irish For-

eign Secretary, accused Mr

Major of trying to "divide and

meeting on Thursday in London

Mr Bruton said he hoped the

COLIN BROWN and DAVID McKITTRICK

Ulster Unionist leaders have signalled they are ready to remove ao obstacle to the peace process, as Irish and British ministers tried to defuse the row over John Major's plao for elections in the Province.

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, has privately made it clear to ministers that if elections were held, he would he prepared to sit down with Sinn Fein leaders while parallel moves were made to disarm

the pre-condition, set out by the British Government in Washinton, that Sinn Fein would be admitted to all-party talks only after a start on decommissioning bad taken place.

ters he has "finessed" the Ulster Unionist conditions for engaging in all party talks, and

Mr Trimble has told minis-

between Mr Spring and Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, would "get the peace process back oo track from which it should never have been diverted". The Taoiseach replied to a letter from Mr Major at the weekend urging the Prime Min-

ister to focus on the Mitchell commission conclusions that the IRA would not decommission arms before all-party talks

He did not reject the idea of elections in Northern Ireland to appoint the negotiating teams,

for the nationalist rejection of but he insisted it was premature to make a decision on elections at this stage. Duhlin clearly want Londoo to put the elections idea into all-party talks by the end of next month.

> sign of slackening their support for the elections although the nationalists remain hostile. Mr Major will meet John Hume, leader of the nationalist SDLP, in his Commons room today (TUES) in an attempt to answer Mr Hume's objections.

British ministers showed no

Officials from the British and Irish Governments also will meet today (TUES) in Duhlin to discuss ways of implementing the report by the US Sena-tor George Mitchell for requiring all groups to renounce violence, end punishment attacks and begin all-party talks leading to disarmament.

Senator Mitchell, in Washington, said President Clinton was very anxious that the all-paruled by the end of February.

Bottomley lifts Ulster protest ban

Gerry Adams could be allowed to address a Sinn Fein rally in Trafalgar Square, following the decision by the Government to lift the 23-year-old ban on Northern Ireland protest meelings at the world-famous landmark, writes Colin Brown. The ban was imposed in

1972, in the wake of the Alder-

shot bom bings, amid fears that

demonstrations at Trafalgar

Square by IRA supporters

would lead to violence in the

capital

Trafalgar Square has witnessed many demonstrations in the meantime, from Ban the Bomh protests to the campaign against the Poll Tax, which ended in violence. Virginia Bottomley, the Sec-

retary of State for National Heritage, yesterday announced she was lifting the ban. It was seen as a confidence-building measure to underline the Goverament's commitment to the Mrs Bottomley said organi-

sations would still have to get permission from the Metropolitan Police for any rallies. The IRA and Loyalist paramilitary organisations would not be allowed to use the square to stage demonstrations as they are still banned organisations.

Mrs Bostomley said: "My department will continue to apply the rules which restrict all demonstrations on Trafalgar Square to weekends, and will continue to ... consider each application on its merits."

Grid promise to consumers: 'No power cuts'

MARY FAGAN and PETER VICTOR

of power cuts.

The National Grid last night promised consumers: "There will be no power cuts tonight or in the foreseeable future." A grid spokesman rejected what he called "media scare stories" and said that, barring unfore-seen circumstances - "like a jumbo jet coming down on power lines or an act of terrorsm" - there was no likelihood

The spokesman added: "We have worked with the regional electricity companies and generators and they have co-operated very well. We have enough power and enough reserves.

Electricity generators sought to dispel growing alarm over the possibility of power cuts during a spate of freezing weather. Record demand caused by the freezing weather sweeping across Britain had fuelled fears that consumers might suffer electricity hlackouts.

A spokesman for the Consumers' Association said: "Consumers pay hundreds of pounds a year to private monopolies for a reliable service and it beggars belief that these companies cannot allow for the fact of the UK having cold winters."

Labour's consumer affairs spokesman, Nigel Griffiths, said the public was suffering a crisis of confidence in the newly privatised National Grid: "We have to ask what power companies have been doing with all the money they have earned in recent times. If they have to turn the voltage down or cut people off, then public confidence will disappear completely."

Offer, the electricity watch-dog, has called on the genera-tors to explain their part in the power supply problem and to ask what safeguards are in place when gas supplies to generating stadons fail. The move by the watchdog came amidst growing concern that power stadons can be cut off when demands on British Gas soar. One industry source said:"In terms of the consumer, it is robbing Peter to pay

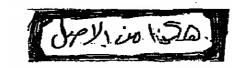
A spokesman for Offer said: "We want information on the situation and how it has arisen. We need to get to the bottom of it and have written to the generators today. We will also be in contact with the gas watchdog. Ofgas, and the Department of Trade and Industry."

Under the current system, some very large gas users, in-cluding power stations, have contracts which allow them hefty discounts on condition that supplies can be cut off when demand from other consumers

Weather forecasters predicted the worst of the cold weather was over, although it will remain chilly.

Professor David Llewellyn-Jones of Leicester University said global warming could exp plain Britain's recent bouts of extremely hot and cold weath er. The earth observation so entist has researched glob warming by measuring chang in sea and land surface ter

peratures from space. He said: "Britaio has alwa had extreme weather, hut wh is expected with global war ing is that we will see an increa in freak winters."



King's Cross fire: Burns victim is awarded a record £650,000 but directs bitter attack on London Transport

There has been no remorse, no goodwill. The survivors were thrown to legal sharks?

STEVE BOGGAN

A musician whose career was blighted by injuries suffered in the 1987 King's Cross fire was awarded £650,000 agreed damages at the High Court yester-

Ron Lipsius, who has un-dergone 18 aperations to repair his burnt hands, said he was disappointed with the settlement he had claimed more than £1m - and he launched a hitter

attack on London Transport.
"I hate them," he said. "I think they are a wicked organisation. Their cumulative incompetence caused hell nn earth on November 18 1987. They've shown no remorse. They have no goodwill. People were maimed and killed, and they threw the survivors to the

legal sharks."
The award is the highest so far out of more than 80 claims, although three are still out-standing. It reflects Mrs Lip-sius's loss of future earnings from an anticipated career writing advertising jingles.

Mr Lipsius, 39, of Hammersmith, west London, earned a first-class music degree from New York City, where he was born, and he had hoped to spend his life in the music business, playing guitar and kevhoards. Among witnesses who would have testified to his skill. had the case gone ahead, was Brian May, lead guitarist with the pop group Queen.

127₁₆.

On the night of the hlaze, Mr Lipsius was travelling with a friend's mother, who died. His hands were severely damaged when he lifted them to protect

largest of 84 cases settled so far

at a cost to London Transport

of more than £4m, writes Steve

awards had been made for the

suffering of two men - a fireman

and a ticket collector - for the

post-traumatic stress they still

endure after feats of selfless

Mahendra Parmar, 46, the

Until yesterday, the highest



Injuries in the fire; and (right) the burned out underground station at King's Cross

his face as a fireball swept through the underground station ticket hall, where many of the 31 who died were overcome

by flames and smnke. As a regular user of the sta-tion, he was ahle to find a way out of the worst of the hlaze before being rescued by firemen.

During his recovery at University Chilege Hospital, London, Mr Lipsius endured a number of extremely painful operations which could only be carried out without anaesthetic. They involved cutting the sides of his fingers to remove

Such was the resulting pain that for eight weeks he was prescribed heroin. Fnr years afterwards he required strong painkillers before daily physiothe rapy sessions.

dead tissue.

The payout to Ron Lipsius is the £375,616 in November 1994 af-

ticket collector, was awarded gree by his wife, Sumitra.

The court was told that he is still suffering from post-trau-

Awards recognise bravery

ter having his health ruined in

Despite terrifying conditions, Mr Parmar, from Milton Keynes, repeatedly led passen-

gers out of danger and re-

furned to save more. But after

the disaster, he became with-

drawn and suffered a series of

health problems that resulted in

him needing sticks to walk. He

has to be cared for to a high de-

the aftermath of the fire.

Damage done: Ron Lipsius recovering in hospital 24 hours after the receiving his

matic stress and depression, and his hands bleed when he tries to play the guitar.

His counsel, Colin Mackay QC, said the "skilful and necessarily aggressive" treatment Mr Lipsius was given enabled him to use his hands to a certain degree, hut they had not been restored enough to enable him to play his guitar.

"His hope, hefore the fire, was not that he was going to be the next Eric Clapton," said Mr Mackay. "But that he would enter the world of jingles.

What my client went through was like a vision of hell . He left his companion and felt guilty he had not been able to save her. Mr Lipsius survived to be described as the worst of the King's Cross victims in terms of burns.

"He has hands that he can

Sheerness, Kent, who repeat-

edly entered the smoke-filled

bodies. Making the award, Mr

Justice Otton said: "He is prob-

ably one of the most courageous

men I have ever had, or shall

have, the privilege of meeting."

The highest collective award, to the widow and children of

one of the victims, Christopher

Roome, amounted to £423,089.

life but the supreme tragedy is he wanted more than that. He wanted a career in music.

"He simply cannot play the guitar. He has tried, and on one occasion his hands started tn bleed. The skin of his hands is simply too delicate, his joints simply too imperfect."

Patrick Allen, Mr Lipsius's solicitur, said Professor Gus McGrouther, Mr Lipsius's surgeon, said 10 more operations were necessary, something London Transport contested. Mr Justice Butterfield said

Mr Lipsius had demonstrated great bravery but that no amount of money could compensate him for the devastating injuries and the psychological consequences of the fire.

"His recovery, partial and in-complete as it is, is quite plainly a tribute to the skill of the doctors who treated him, the support of his family and, above all, the dogged determination of Mr Lipsius himself."

After the hearing, Mr Lipsius said: "I am disappointed. I was The next highest award was made to Paul Hale, 47, of hoping for a lot more, but it's a risky husiness and you just have to settle for less or go through an incredible amount station to pull out survivors and of stress - and maybe get less."

He said the money would be used to huild a recording studio so he could continue trying to work as a musician. London Transport said it was

pleased" the case had been settled and it expressed its sympathy for all the victims and



Pay back: Ron Lipsius leaving the High Court with his wife, Sally

Opera star in boycott threat

Opera star Bryn Terfel yester day threatened to boycott Wales in the row over the Millennium Commission's decisinn not tn fund the new Cardiff Bay npera

Welsh-born Mr Terfel had been booked to open the controversial new huilding on Si David's Day in the year 2000 by singing the title role in Wagner's "The Flying Dutch-

But the failure of the opera house bid and pressure from nther prestigious opera houses to sing with them has forced him to put the plans on one side.

It means his current project singing the part of Nick Shaddow in a new Welsh National Opera production of Stravinsky's The Rake's Progress due to open in February - could well be his last for the company. Mr Terfel confirmed his cal-

endar was fully booked for the next seven years and that the Welsh National Opera now had no place in it.

"I'm very disappointed," he said, but added that, without the new opera house, the WNO simply did not have the theatre facilities to make it worth his while singing with them.

The singer's outspoken con-demnation of the Millennium Commission's decision will further fuel the debate which has raged in the music world since Heritage Secretary Virginia Bottomley announced its rejection last month.

Supporters of the landmark project had been seeking around £50m for a permanent home for the company, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

In an outspoken interview for BBC Wales, Mr Terfel admitted he would now rather go to America, Europe or Covent Garden to take on some of the

demanding Wagnerian roles. The singer added; "The Met said that if plans for the new Welsh opera house don't come through, then we have some-thing for you instead. So what am I supposed to do?"

The fastest rising singing suc-

cess for decades, Mr Terfel, a farmer's son from Snowdonia, has already performed in most of the world's opera houses to huge acclaim.

Obsession that turns life into nightmare for victims

WILL BENNETT

The obsessive nature of the Camhridgeshire stalker, who followed his victim for four months before raping her in her home, would be familiar to

thousands of frightened women. When rejected or ignored stalkers become ever more obsessive and determined, turning the lives of their victims into

The stalking compulsion is known by psychiatrists as ero-tomania. The basic delusion is that the pursuer is either loved intensely by their quarry or would be if they only knew each other. Some are harmless but many are not.

John Hinckley shot and wounded President Ronald Reagan in try to impress actress Jodie Foster, for whom he had formed an obsessive attraction.

Police are under no illusions that Chuck, the Cambridgeshire stalker, must be caught. Detective Superintendent Tony Rogers, the officer leading the inquiry, said yesterday: "This man is clearly extremely danWhen rejected the stalker becomes more determined to trap his quarry

gerous and I believe it is possi-ble this may not be the first time he has victimised and harmed a woman. Moreover, I cannot rule out the possibility that he may rape again."

The stalker: An artist's drawing of 'Chuck'

The stalker first saw the woman, a mother in her thirties, in a local hotel where she was having a cup of coffee last Septemher. She rejected his chatup attempt and not unnaturally thnught that that would be the end of the matter. He has since veered from

threatening behaviour, once punching her, to trying to win her approval. On one occasion he pulled up behind her and offered to help within moments of her car breaking down. The sense of threat that she

felt was increased by the fact that she sometimes saw him even when he was not following her. Detective Superintendent Rogers said: "During the Christmas and New Year periods she spotted the man on several occasions in Huntingdon." Many celebrities are harassed

by stalkers. Earlier this month

Robert Dewey Hoskins was

convicted of making "terrorist

threats" to the pop singer Mad-

onna. He hroke into her Hol-lywood estate twice, left love letters in her letterbox and threatened to "slice her throat from ear to ear".

Other public figures stalked m recent years include members of the royal family, tennis players Munica Seles and Steffi Graf, supermodel Naomi Campbell, singer Olivia Newton-John, and the actress Helena Bonham-Carter.

The questions which Cam-bridgeshire police now have to address are whether they provided enough protection for the rape victim and whether they could have followed her to

catch the stalker. Detective Superintendent Rogers said: "It is not the time now to have an inquiry into our methods. We took the necessary security measures to try to protect her.

Asked why detectives had not tailed the woman to try to trap the stalker, police said she had not told them she was being followed until after she was punched just before Christmas.

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EU racism watchdog demands Internet neo-Nazi censorship

ANDREW BROWN

An EU committee on racism has demanded that the Internet be censored to prevent the incitement of racial hatred. The Union's Consultative Commissinn on Racism and Xenophobia, based in Paris, yesterday urged all member states to follow the example of Germany, which has been attempting to censor racist and pornographic messages in cyberspace.

The latest scandal was caused by Ernst Zündel, a German neo-Nazi, based in Canada. who has hired space on a computer in California to promnte his views. This space, known as a web site, greets visitors with the statement: "The Zündelsite has as its mission the rehabilitation of the honour and repu-

tation of the German nation and site challenges the traditional version of the 'Holocaust' - an Allied propaganda tool con-cocted during World War II -that is not based on historical fact but is a cleverly used ploy to keep the German war time generation and their descendants in perpetual political, emotional, spiritual and finan-

cial bondage."
These views are obnoxious in California and illegal in Germany, where the denial of the Holocaust is a crime, along with the display of Nazi symbolism. The Zündel site has links to a flourishing undergrowth of neo-Nazism on the Internet. The Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Los Angeles claims to have identified more than 70 neo-Nazi web sites.

are now able to access these through Internet services. Last week, Deutsche Telekom, the largest provider of Internet services in Germany, cut off all access to the computers of Web Communications, the company which rents space to Zündel. Since this is a large and respectable commercial concern, this also meant that the Deutsche Telekom subscribers

lost access to another 1,500

web sites, among them one

maintained by Deutsche Bank

Securities. Deutsche Telekom itself admits that this form of censorship is partial and inefficient. A spokesman was anxious yessponsibility for the messages geography, and that creates carried over their network. "We problems."

More than a million Germans are not responsible, but we become associated with it. We think that an individual case like that of Mr Zündel brings bad influence to our reputation in the market." However, the state prosecu-

tor's office in Mannheim is considering whether to charge Deutsche Telekom anyway. Stephen Bates, an American

lawyer who has made a special study of freedom of speech in cyberspace, said yesterday: "The law is trying imperfectly and inadequately to uphold the idea that some information is

acceptable and some is not.
"But law has always been based on territory. Now, in cyberspace, we're seeing, in subterday to disclaim legal re- stantial part, the end of

Hospital to get £50m injection of private cash

NICHOLAS TIMMINS **Public Policy Editor**

A £50m private finance redevelopment of St James's Hospital in Leeds was given the go-ahead yesterday providing it with a new 166-bed paediatric wing, but also its first private beds for paying patients. The scheme is the biggest

NHS contract let so far under the Government's private finance initiative. It includes a "medipark" to attract pharmaceutical, bin-technology and equipment manufacturers, a 900-place car park which will help raise revenue, and an 80bed patient "hotel" to which recuperating patients may be

The development is due to be followed by a string of other privately financed hospitals worth a potential £1bn, including the £35m 150-bed development at Chesham and Amersham ananunced by Kenneth in the Budget. They include a £90m rebuild at the Swindon and Marlborough Trust and a £100m project to provide a complete new district general hospital on a green-field site at Norwich.

face of hospitals up and down the country" by providing up-to-date facilities in place of ageing NHS buildings. All the clinical services of doctors and nurses would continue to be provided by the NHS, he added.

Harriet Harman, Labour's health spokeswoman, countered that the initiative was privatising the NHS, leaving the service "in hock" to the private companies who would build, own and run the buildings.

The new wing at Jimmy's is due for completion at the end of 1988 and will occupy a 13.5 acre site next to the hospital. The project is being run by a subsidiary of Medipark Ltd of which the leading members are Charterhouse Bank and John Laing Construction.

The 80-bed hotel, in which the NHS will "rent" beds as and when it needs them, will include a 35-bed private unit. It will be run by a private provider who has yet in be identified but who will pay a royalty to the hospital based on the number of patjents treated.

A trust spokesman said the aim was to encourage hospital John Horam, the junior consultants who now operate health minister, claimed the privately elsewhere to use the and Battle Trust in Reading.

initiative was "changing the facilities at Jimmy's - cutting their travelling time, making them more available to the NHS and providing the trust with extra revenue.

The trust claimed yesterday that private-sector involvement including innovations in design and running costs, made the scheme £5m cheaper to build and £10m cheaper overall than its publicly-funded equivalent.

John Greetham, chairman of the Northern and Yorkshire region of the NHS, who initiated the project when chairman of Jimmy's, said: "The PFI is not a way of privatising the NHS, Far from it. The PFI actually protects the NHS's fundamental principle - providing health care based on clinical need free at the point of delivery by finding ways of making qual-

ity health care more affordable." Four hundred jobs will be involved in the construction phase of what is essentially a rationalisation of existing, scattered, paediatric services. It also releases part of the existing hospital for mental health care.

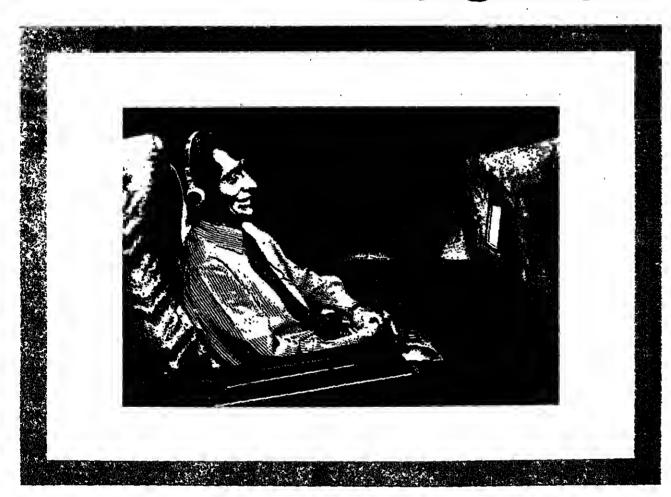
Mr Horam also announced a £20m scheme to provide car parking and office accommodation at the Royal Berkshire Euthanasia law: Woman facing slow death calls for 'wider choice for dying'



Mercy plea: Annie Lindsell, 45, (in wheelchair), a motor neurone disease sufferer, outside the Commons yesterday where she attended a seminal calling on MPs to support 'a wider choice for the dying' by relaxing the law on euthanasia. She faced 'a life where I'll be completely paralysed, unable to take care of my most intimate personal needs' and said her main barrier to a dignified death was the current law

Photograph: John Voos

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Inquiry into Gulf syndrome'

Defence chiefs are today expected to announce moves to step up investigations into so-

called Gulf war syndrome. After intense cross-party pressure, ministers are believed in come down in favour of an inquiry into deformities among

children born to Gulf veterans. More than 70 former service personnel claim there could be a link between the cocktail of vaccinations and anti-nerve agents they took to protect themselves against chemical and biological attack and deformities cil tax from April by more than in their offspring. Some bave been born with limb defects,

had vital organs missing. The expected move fallows a top-level meeting between defence chiefs and a team of

heart deformities and some bave

medical specialists last week. Labour defence spokesman Dr John Reid said: "A partial inquiry into any single aspect of the problem will be welcome. hut only as a first step towards the full inquiry that our veterans deserve. For too long the Government has tried to ignore this issue. It looks as though it has now found the strength of professinnal and medical opinion too great to resist."

Council taxes 'set to rocket'

COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

Council tax rises could be much higher than the eight per cent predicted by the Treasury, as a result of cuts in support for spending by local government, Frank Dobson, the shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, warned last night.

Mr Dobson blamed the Government for forcing many Labour-controlled local aucil tax from April by more than three times the rate of inflation. as a result of cuts in grants.

"Labour authorities will have to do their best to keep the council tax down and maintain services as best they can. But it will mean people have to pay more for less," he said.

William Waldegrave, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. had estimated at the time of the Budget that the council tax could go up by eight per cent, but Mr Dobson warned it could be higher. "It could be more. It is an average, and last time, the actual figures varied between an increase of 24 per cent to a substantial reduction," he said. Labour will seek to blame the

in council tax in a full-scale Commons debate tomorrow. Mr Dobson said it was the equivalent of an increase of a half-penny in the pound on the basic rate of income tax. "It will nearly wipe out the 1p cut in income tax given to the taxpavers in the Budget. What they give with one hand, they steal back with the other," he said.

Government for the increases

Higher ills are due to drop through letter boxes shortly before the May local elections. Ministers are hoping to pin the blame on Labour-controlled councils, and will claim it represents the higher spending voters can expect under Labour.



Warning: Frank Dobson

Labour attacks mean-minded Tones over homeless

'Bedsit hostels' incur Gummer's wrath

efit hostels and bedsit blocks if they cause a nuisance or annoyance to the neighbourhood.

The move, announced hy John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, will be particularly welcome in seaside towns, he said, where nace elegant hotels have become troublesome eyesores.

In many resorts former botels and guest houses had become what are sometimes called "benefit hostels". Where these are badly man-

aged, or where there are simply too many of them, there is often considerable nuisance and sometimes real danger. Such wholesale changes can alter the whole character of an area and damage the tourism industry, upon which many such seaside towns exist."

Speaking during the Second Reading of the Housing Bill, Mr Gummer promised amendments to enable councils to close down problem "houses in multiple occupation", without compensation. Councils will also be given powers to prevent new HIMOs opening.

on its impact on the homeless. Frank Dobson, Labour's environment spokesman, said it was a "nasty, mean-spirited" measure which attacked homeless people. Mr Gummer, about treating everyone on the housing waiting list equally.

Responding to a newspaper advertisement from housing charities, the Secretary of State said it was not a fair system to have several queues. "Everyone should be lined up together." The Bill proposes a single

waiting list route into local authority and housing associa-tion humes. Families and the vulnerable would be given a minimum of one year's accommodation. But Mr Gummer



Stephen Goodwin

said others might actually be living in far worse conditions. This Bill ensures people are judged according to their needs," he insisted. "To each according to his need - or is this

another thing that the Labour party have thrown nut?" right to buy, leaseholders greater protection, and council tenants a chance to vote for new social landlords able to use pri-

vate money for improvements. But little of this impressed Mr

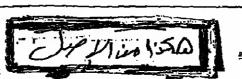
Touncils are to be given new meanwhile, maintained it was Dobson who said the Bill compowers to close down benabout treating everyone on the hined "Tory mean-mindedness" hined "Tory mean-mindedness and a lurch to the right". Instead nf helping the victims of their policies, the Government was blaming them. "Faced with enormous queues for council and housing association homes, the Government isn't trying to shorten the queues by building more homes. Instead they propose just to rearrange the queue and hope that in the process the people affected will start blam-

> might also distract attention from the Tories' record." Instead of finding families somewhere decent to live, the Government was proposing to force them to live in "perpetual insecurity," Mr Dobson said.
> He held up as the epitome of Tory policy the Clarendon Court Hotel, in Westminster.

ing one another and that it

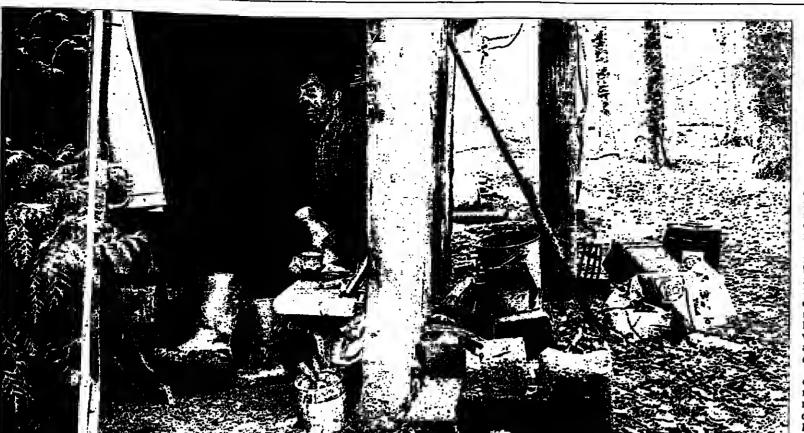
claiming it was occupied by 158 families living in "squalor". "But the landlords won't be living in squalor. They're getting £750,000 a year - £14,000 a

week - of taxpayers' money. He said the hotel was infest ed hy cockroaches and there were only six electric cooking rings shared by residents of 48 bedsitting rooms. This Hous-Much of the acrimonious
Other provisions give more ing Bill doesn't propose to do debate on the Bill centred housing association tenants the anything to improve the living ing Bill doesn't propose to do conditions of these families, nor does it propose anything to help them get somewhere bet-ter to live. Quite the reverseit's likely to force them to 5129





Council taxes 'set to rocket



Digging in: Forest of Dean free miners such as Gilbert Kerr see licences to mine as a violation of their birthright

Forest miners fight for right to stay free

For 700 years the free miners of the Forest of Dean have mined coal without such bureaucratic niceties as planning permission, but now history is set to be overturned and their future is in the balance.

The fiercely independent miners will not see their birthright eroded without a light, It was the skills of their forefathers in tunnelling under castle fortifications that brought them the right to mine without hindrance or encumbrance anywhere in the Forest of Dean, the area of tand between the River Severn and Wales.

Gerald Haynes owns one of only two full-time mines remaining. He has been told he needs planning permission to continue his mine at Hayners Bailey, Cannop, where he travels 200 metres underground to hack out 400 tonnes of coal a year in a one-man operation. Like all the free miners, Mr

Haynes was born in the hundred of St Briavels and worked a year and a day underground in a mine. There are still a couple of hundred free miners surviving

but few now mine.

He said: "ti seems that the authorities want to get rid of the free miners. Now there are only a few left mining the impression is that we are an anomaly they want to see removed." Mr Haynes said it bad always been accepted that free miners did not need planning permis-

sion. But consent may prove dif-ficult to obtain in what is an environmentally sensitive area. "All I want is to be able to carry on as I have done for 20 years. Most of the coal goes into tocal homes

Donald Johns, chairman of the Forest of Dean Free Miners' Association, said the whole issue was complicated, but he was critical of the new Coal Authority for insisting on planning permission.

He said: "At stake is an im-

portant tradition for this area. We are not just tooking at 10day but for the next 50 years. We can't let our rights be eroded.

Paul Marland, the MP for Gloucestershire West, has backed the miners' fight. "We must ensure that the free miners and their ancient rights are protected and preserved."

Roy Piggott, the Forest's minerals estate manager – known as the deputy gavetler – said free miners needed planning permission, "You get this folklore, but the rule of law is the rule of law. There is a ten-dency to believe the free mining is the Oxford Dictionary sense of free, and it isn't."

He said there was still confusion over whether all free miners required a ticence. A spokesman for the Coal Authority admitted the whole issue was complex and governed by arcane regulations.

The authority and the deputy gaveller said they were in talks to try and find a compromise.

Universities threaten £300 fee

Vice-chancellors will decide

charged to students on full grants, could affect 140,000 students and would raise up to £50m. Universities face cuts of 9.4 per cent over three years, with capital spending reduced by 50 per cent. They say they will take action unless this year's budget eases their plight.

along with a further measure which could mean a boycott of quality inspections in universities. This second plan could lead to financial sanctions by government funding agencies.

Diana Warwick, chief execu-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP), said yesterday that

with reluctance. "What is the point of delivering second class tuition to students? Universities need adequate funding to main-tain quality," she said.

Vice-chancellors have been increasingly vocal in their protests against spending restrictions. The proportion of 18 year-olds going to university has risen in the past decade from one in five to almost one in three, but the higher education budget has failed to keep pace.

because it would lead to fund-

of Students (NUS) failed to persuade its members to press for However, a number of stu-

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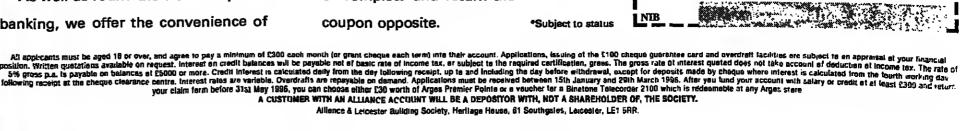
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for freshers

FRAN ABRAMS Education Correspondent

Universities are threatening to charge freshers £300 per head next year unless government cuts are reversed.

on Friday whether to impose the one-off levy on new students from September 1997. They may also decide to boycott inspections of their teaching The fee, which would not be

More than 100 vice-chancellors will discuss the plan. long-term solution to the uni-

tive of the Committee of Viceaction would only be taken



move to counter cuts

Other proposals which will be tabled at Friday's meeting will include the introduction of topup fees which would vary from university to university. Some vice-chancellors have also threatened to cut student numbers, but this has been rejected ing being reduced even further.

The CVCP believes the only versities' funding problems would be a system by which all students repaid a proportion of their fees after graduation.

Such a system has already been introduced in Australia and does not appear to have put off potential students. However, despite continued political pressure for such a move neither of the main political parties has so far been prepared to make a commitment to it. Last year the National Union

a system like the Australian one, which could mean much more generous funding for universities. It will debate the issue again at its conference this spring. dent groups are opposed. Yesterday they launched a Campaign for Free Education, whose members will stand for

executive positions in NUS. Among its members is Clive Lewis, the union's vice-presi-dent for education. "Students are already living in desperate hardship. Tuition fees amount to a tax on education," he said.

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National Lottery: Urban parks set to gain as latest rollover jackpot winners consider their futures

Park life is given £50m injection

CLARE GARNER

Britain's urban parks are set to receive a £50m facelift from the Heritage Lottery Fund, it was announced yesterday.

Following a series of lottery handouts to allegedly elitist institutions, the fund has turned its attention to a subject close to the hearts of the estimated 8 million people who visit a park each day.

The Urban Parks Programme plans to restore and rejuvenate historic open spaces in towns and cities throughout the country over the next three years. Launching the scheme in Sheffield's Weston Park, fund chairman Lord Rothschild invited applications from parks, gardens, town squares, town moors, seaside promenade gardens and historic cemeteries. and said funding decisions were expected to be announced by

March next year. A recent report by Comedia/Demos, on which the programme was partly based. estimated that more than 40 per cent of the population use parks for recreation, fun and fresh air

terday: "We're delighted they have taken on an issue which to most of the policy-makers in London seems mundane but is in fact where life is lived.

"Whereas so many of the visible beneficiaries of lottery money have been élitist and exclusive institutions, there is none less so than the public park. That's why, in terms of value for money and improving the quality of life there's more bang for the buck available in the parks than almost anywhere else at the moment."

In the 19th century, Britain pioncered an entirely new model for public parks, imitated around the world. Mr Mulgan hopes the new programme will prove equally innovative. Parks should be "showcases for biodiversity" and cater for sports ranging from American football to Tai Chi, he said.

Clare Hartwell, the Victorian Society's northern architectural adviser, had one reservation. "I think it is quite likely that some parks in the north haven't even been identified yet." she said. "In London there is extremely good knowl-



Open space: Aston Park, Birmingham, one of the Victorian parks expected to be considered for Heritage Fund awards the first to attract money. It's going to be more difficult to tar-

get the parks which are most in need of financial help."

a good body of research will be space in urban areas of any comparable country. In a recent Mori poll, commissioned by the fund, 65 per cent of the population nominated inner-city

preserve, and 74 per cent thought that it was "very important to make local parks cleaner and safer for children. Sheffield is just one city

tion of over half a million, making at least three million visits a year to Sheffield's parks," said Elizabeth Thring, director of recreation and amenities for the city council.
"Our Victorian forefathers

were very generous in providing wonderful parks which became the lungs of the city. However, the maintenance paid into parks has gone down 50 per

NHS dentists hardest to find in South

LIZ HUNT Health Editor

One in three people say they are having trouble in finding an NHS dentist, says a survey which highlights a dental service in crisis despite Government denials that this is the case.

The situation is worst in the South-east with over half (52 per cent) of respondents saying they faced problems. In East Anglia, which includes the Prime Minister's own constituency of Huntingdon, the figure was 48 per cent, the second highest in the country.

Problems were less severe

further north. In Scotland, only 16 per cent of respondents said finding an NHS dentist was a

The British Dental Association, which commissioned the survey, is calling on the Gov-ernment to increase funding for NHS dentistry "as a matter of urgency". There is a "scrious tack of dental treatment across the country, the association said and it is urging the public to write to their local MPs to complain about the disintegration of the NHS dental service.

The relationship between the Government and dentists is at an all time low after years of dispute over fees. In 1992 a 7 per cent cut was imposed after dentists did more work than the Government had budgeted for.

As a result almost a million NHS patients have been "deregistered" by disillusioned dentists in recent years. Some are refusing new NHS patients and others restricting their new intake to pregnant women and children. Abandoned patients have to find a new NHS dentist. seek private treamment or join

an insurance scheme.

Dr Joe Rich, of the BDA. said yesterday: "We have great sympathy for members of the public trying to find an NHS dentist. Chronic underfunding by this Government has forced many dentists out of the NHS. The BDA will continue to fight for the preservation of NHS

A 10 per cent increase in funding for health service dentistry in each of the next five years was needed to improve access to dental treatment for NHS patients, according to the

A Department of Health spokeswoman said yesterday that the Government was committed to the NHS dental service and that the number of NHS dentists was higher than four years ago at almost 16,000, up 525 on figures for June 1992. The number of patients registered was 27.4 million, up 100,000 on 1992.

A regional breakdown of people finding it difficult to locate an NHS dentist was as follows: North, 19 per cent; Yorkshire and Humberside, 21 per cent; East Midlands, 26 per cent; East Anglia, 48 per cent; South-east, 52 per cent; London, 33 per cent; South-west, 47 per cent; Wales, 44 per cent: West Midlands, 39 per cent;

Scotland, 16 per cent. The survey was conducted by telephone among a sample of 1,024 respondents earlier this month.

North-west, 27 per cent; and

on a regular basis. Geoff Mulgan, director of Demos, said yesand obviously those parks with Britain has the largest proparks as the aspect of heritage which would benefit from lotthey felt was most important to tery money. "We've a popula-Business as usual for 'dedicated' jackpot winners



Winners: Christine Winter, Philomena Kelly, Maria Martinez and Margle West

Four members of a team of met for champagne celebrations council workers whose syndicate won a flow share of the Na-tional Lottery roll-over jackpot said today they had no intention of giving up their jobs, helping

Camden council in north Lon- ted to it and no one is talking don, never had any doubt about reporting for work as normal after learning they would each receive £304,724, they said.

We like our work - it's not the sort of job you could just not turn up for," said manager Christine Winter. Assessment officer Margie West said: "You can't just walk away from people who need you.

yesterday and there was never any question that anyone would fail to turn up for work at their base near King's Cross Station - an area notorious for street people whose luck had run out.
They and the other 29 syndicate members, who work in kind of work." said Mrs Winter. the homeless persons' unit of "But we all are highly commit-

> of leaving. There was general agree-ment to wait for a while before deciding what to do with the money, but they said they were beginning to get some ideas.

Ms Martinez, who moved to London from her native tery win - £10,055,900 - re-Madrid, said: "I haven't decided yet but it's going to be some-

jump out of an aeroplane." She said her 15-year-old daughter, Arantxa, "screamed the place down" with delight when she heard of the win. Camden council leader

Richard Arthur said: "We are

thrilled for all the staff. There couldn't be a more deserving group and we're delighted. The fact that the whole group reported for work after

their win underlines their dedication to helping homeless families, one of the most vulnerable groups in our society." A nurse, who yesterday claimed Scotland's largest lot-

vealed that he has spent the last year sleeping on an airbed. But John McGuinness doesn't plan le who need you." thing spectacular and John McGuinness doesn't pla They said most of the 33 had outrageous like learning to to change his life overnight.

He is thinking of going back to Law hospital in Strathelyde, where he is a theatre nurse, but has been given time off to think things over. "I need to do something with my time. I can't just sit around," said Mr McGuinness, of Shotts, near Glasgow Since his marriage hroke down a year ago, Mr McGuin-

ness, who earns £150 a week, one-bedroomed house. He had no plans to spend the

money but simply wanted to make sure his family was happy. His daughter, Lauren, aged who lives with his estranged wife, Hazel was over the moon. Mr McGuinness said Hazel had told him she was happy for him. "I will see that she is happy too," he said.

Chinese prepare to gamble on scratchcard The government is wary of

Welfare Lottery Committee realised just over a year ago that sales of lottery tickets had hit a plateau, they decided to open up China's wild west to the joys of the game. An "experiment" was held in Xinjiang province's Manas county, home to 120,000 nomads. It was something of a hit; within days, 1.1 million lottery tickets had been sold.

Buoyed with success, the officials aggressively started marketing bigger games across China, with higher-value prizes, ranging from bags of cement to washing machines. In a country

where gambling is supposedly il-legal, it did not take long to pay venture company is printing miloff. By the end of the year to-tal sales had soared to 5.5hn yuan (£450m), more than twice that for 1994. Officials readily admitted that, if only they could have printed more tickets, sales

would have been much higher. Next month will see the Chinese government's biggest experiment yet in the lottery business, with the launch of new scratcheard games in which Chinese punters buying the 2 yuan [14p] tickets will be able to win large cash prizes. At a se-cret location near Peking, a

lions of lottery cards for the "Constellation" and "Land Battle Chase" games, which will start selling in the run-up to Chinese New Year in mid-February

Prizes worth up to 100,000 yuan (£8,300) will be on offer. including apartments and cars, but an official at the lottery committee said there would also be a cash option. Cash prizes would be "more flexible", he said. Some people do not like the articles, they already have them. They prefer cash." In theory, China has strict

Popularity of draw prompts instant experiment, writes Teresa Poole

anti-gamhling laws. In practice, that does not always matter. At the Peking Racing Track. for instance, betting is officially described as "guessing" about which horse may win. Similarly, the government has overlooked any inconsistency in state loneries. Under the goverument's regulations, 55 per cent of ticket revenues must be spent on prizes, 15 per cent goes on printing and distribution, and 30 per cent funds on welfare institutions, including old people's homes and mental asylums.

Chinese tottery tickets were simple cards with perforated windows, which tear back to reveal a symbol. The scratchcards will he far more sophisticated - and far more fraud-proof. The joint venture is 37 per cent owned by the French state lottery company, Française des Jeux, which has imported state-of-the-art machines to make the tickets. Outside Peking's Landao de-

partment store the Chaoyang District Civil Affairs Social Welfare Bureau had two "campaigns" running this week, with an array of prizes on show to encourage ticket sales. For 2 yuan one had the chance of winning a motorcycle, Panasonic TV/hifi or microwave oven. One man, Mr Hu, bought five tick-ets to "try my luck" and won a monkey toy. "It is fun. Suppose I win a colour TV!" said another man from Hebei province.

The scratchcards will be launched in the south of China and, significantly, not in Peking, just in case anything goes awry.

sparking lottery mania. "They do not want to go too fast," said one expert. "They do not know what will be the impact on the economy, especially in the countryside." In some cases, peasants have sold their clothes to raise funds to buy tickets: some of the poorest provinces, such as Shaanxi and Guangxi, have been among the biggest ticket purchasers. The government also wants to keep strict control - in one province last autumn there was a riot when lo-cal cadres raised ticket prices without increasing prizes.

Jammed controls 'caused air crash'

A Chinook helicopter pilot told an inquiry that he did not accept the findings of an RAF board of inquiry into the Mull of Kintyre disaster, in which 29 people died when their belicopter ploughed into a hillside.

The pilot said he believed the machine's controls had jammed - forcing the giant helicopter into a head-on collision course with the Mull. He considered the board of inquiry findings that the Chinook pilot had chosen the wrong rate of climb - as

"unlikely in the extreme". The pilot, who cannot be named on security grounds, put forward his theory when he appeared as a witness for the family of Flight Lieulenant Jonathan Tapper, the captain of the helicopter involved, at the fatal accident inquiry in Paisley.

Strathcfyde. He and another Chinook pilot told the inquiry that Fit Li Tapper - and most other Chinook pilots - had repeatedly expressed concerns about the new Mk 11 Chinook, Flt Lt Tapper was said to have voiced concerns "on a daily basis" that it was less capable of doing the job

than the Mk I it replaced. The RAF board of inquiry concluded the likeliest explana-tion for the crash - which killed the four-man RAF crew and their 25 passengers including Ulster's top anti-terrorist RUC. military and MI5 officials – was a high-speed cruising climb at a rate of climb too low to

clear the Mull. The RAF board said that although technical malfunction could not be ruled out, there

was no evidence to suggest this. Central to the evidence has been the low-level flight path the aircraft was taking. Less than a mile short of the Mull the pilot entered an updated navigation marker, or "waypoint", In the final seconds before disaster the helicopter dramatically increased its climb rate. The change of waypoint - on the RAF board of inquiry scenario - was part of a pre-planned change from fly-by-sight rules to instrument flying rules. But the

pilot said yesterday he thought it "inconceivable" that the he-

licopter would be that close to

land, out of visual contact, and

below its safety altitude.

ססטנ אחסטנ Accommodation baffles twothirds of us, occasionally stumps more than half and around

four in ten can't cope with necessary and apologise. A survey of spelling and punctuation among 980 people aged between 16 and 60, published yesterday, reveals that nearly half of adults cannot

spell common words. Accommodation proved to be the most difficult word in the survey, conducted by the Adult and Basic Skills Agency: 68 per cent spelt it wrongly. Next came occasionally (55 per cent), immediately (45 per cent) and necessary and maintenance (43 per cent l.

The young laged 16-24) were the worst spellers, strongly sug-gesting that standards have fallen. However, the oldest group. aged 55-60, were not much better. They had more difficulty than the young with casy words such as because and complain. form and can The best spellers are in their punctuation.

Most common spelling mistakes

Call for new approach to

spelling as adults fail test

Accommodation Occasionally Immediately Maintenance

Necessary

Unfortunately Apologise Receive Sincerely Allowance thirties and forties, many of

whom were at primary school in the sixties and seventies, when much-criticised "trendy" teaching methods were prevalent. Graduates are better spellers, but a third of them spell occa-

sionally wrongly and II and I2 per cent respectively failed to spell sincerely and necessary correctly. Overall, 11 per cent could not spell writing and thirteen per cent of 16-24-year-olds could do little more than fill in their name

and address on a form. Women are better spellers than men. Alan Wells, the agency's director, said: 'Many employers automanically reject applications for jobs if people spell incorrectly on the application form and can't use the right

"We tend to think that cducation has been improving but

in terms of these very busic skills I don't think this is the case." He urged a return to old-fashioned "spelling-bees" and words learned by rote.

Anne Barnes, general secretary of the National Association for the Teaching of English, said: You only learn to spell by reading a lot. Children are reading less because they watch so much television and have

televisions in their bedrooms. "Spelling-bees may help some people but not most. Any teacher knows that you can prevent a child ever learning to spell by using the spelling ex-ercise approach."

One in four people had a poor grasp of punctuation. The use of the apostrophe was a par-

ticular problem. This group also tried to punctuate passages by "a random scattering Those with no educational

qualifications did more than twice as badly in the punctuation exercises as those with five or more good GCSEs. Employers say the fact that

more 16-year-olds are getting higher grades in maths and English GCSE does not mean that they can write intelligibly or are numerate enough to cope with work

A survey of 50 employers, carried out by the employers' organisation, Industry in Education, shows that employers believe too many teenagers lack initiative, determination and self-discipline. They want schools to con-

centrate less on exam success and more on developing personal qualities. The employers challenge the Prime Minister's view that sport promotes teamwork. The time would be better spent in practical education about the world of work.

Child bride 'will not go into care'

STEVE BOGGAN

A High Court judge yesterday reassured 13-year-old bride Sarah Cook that she would not be taken into care if she returned to Britain from her 'marital" bome in Turkey.

born Sarah a ward of court. He said he was anxious to ensure the schoolgirl did not think she would be separated from her parents if his order for her to

return "forthwith" was obeyed. Sir Stephen, who conducted a hearing in chambers with media to deliver a statement. He said: "In the light of certain reports which have been circulated, it is necessary to say that these are wardship proceedings and not care proceedings.

"Essex County Council has Sarah into care and away from her parents.

"I would wish to say that which represents any threat or statutory rape.

application which might preju-dice anybody. What is desired is to enable the court to further the welfare of Sarah and to en-

sure her protection."
He said he hoped the "emotional climate" surrounding the case could be cooled, but there Sir Stephen Brown, president of the Family Division, took the Kharamanmaras, south eastem Turkey, where Sarah's 18-year-old "bushand" Musa remains in eustody charged with statutory rape.

Sarah's mother, Jackie, 37, has so far failed to persuade the child to return home in the face of a groundswell of national support for her.

Sarah's father, Adrian, 42, and counsel, opened the court to the kissed the Koran as a demonstration of her determination to stay in her chosen country. "I love Musa, I love his family, I

love this country, I don't want to go back," she said. She was cheered wherever "Essex County Council has she went and given gifts, in-no intention at present to take cluding two gold bracelets. The mayor of the town has already promised the couple a villa when Musa is finally freed. He wardship is not a procedure faces up to five years in jail for

mners

Higher bid for BR freight was rejected

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR Transport Correspondent

The Government has been accused of favouring a US company to huy three of BR's freight concerns by rejecting a higher hid from a British firm.

Wisconsin Central, which has become the preferred hidder for the three husinesses, is to pay £225m while another bid for £240m was rejected by the Government because it was so keen to sell the rail businesses to Wisconsin.

The Government is gratefut to Wisconsin for having bought the loss-making Res mail train husiness last month - expected to lose £10m this year-and was anxious to ensure that the US company won the race for the three profitable railfreight companies, Loadhaul, Mainline and Transrail.

The announcement of the sale is due to be made in two weeks time but it emerged earlier this month that Wisconsin is the preferred hidder for the three husinesses.

However, another hidder, a management buy-out team from Mainline Freight, one of the three freight companies which linked up with Candover, the City finance firm, and Associated British Ports, put in a hid for £240m,

Mainline was so angered by the refusal of the Government to accept its hid that the company considered seeking a judicial review, accusing the Government of favouring Wisconsin, but refrained because the company feared repercus-

sions within the industry. Mainline's hid was submitted late after the two initial preferred bids, from Wisconsin and Loadhaul, another of the freight companies, had been referred back for reconsidera-

A rail industry source said: "Mainline thought that if Wisconsin and Loadhaul were heing allowed to hid again, then their bid should be reconsidered

However, despite British Rail wanting it to be considered by the Government, ministers threw it out."

In an interview to be published tomorrow in Rail magazine. Ed Burkhardt, the head nf Wisconsin, admits he was not interested in the British Rail freight business until he was approached in 1994 in Chicago by Brian Mawhinney, the then Secretary of State for Transport.

Mr Burkhardi says that Dr Mawhinney told him: "You should still jump into that water, and be a hidder. Maybe you'll get what will turn out to be a bargain."
Dr Mawhinney admitted to

Mr Burkhardt that ministers had made mistakes in drawing up the privatisation scheme but said, according to Mr Burkhardt, that "it will all come out in the price, won't it".

Mr Burkhardt admits in the interview that considerable numbers of jobs are likely to be

Out of 8,500 employed by the three businesses, it is thought that more than 3,500 jobs will go and Mr Burkhardt says that compulsory redundancies will be necessary.

Labour last night said the sale should be stopped. Brian Wilson, Labour's transport spokes-man, said: "All these hids should be subjected to investigation by the Public Accounts Committee These sales are politically driven without an iota of regard to the taxpayers' interests."

The sale has already been criticised by opponents of rail privatisation as wasteful because the Government originally created the three railfreight companies in 1994 to stimulate competition in the industry, but then made it clear that the three would be sold

Mr Wilson said: "Millions of pounds were spent on creating the three companies and that has now been wasted."



Heirs and graces: Ken Matthews outside Margam Castle. The sculpture is called 'Mother and Child'

may unlock aristocratic secret

CHRIS BLACKHURST

A man from South Wales is to apply to disinter the bodies of members of a land-owning, aristocratic family to prove he is their rightful beir.

Ken Matthews of Swansea is in discussion with Home Office forensic scientists about the best way to exhume members of the Talbot Fletcher family for DNA fingerprinting tests, which he believes would show he is also a Talbot Fletcher. He is receiving backing from his local MP, Donald Anderson.

He is not motivated purely by desire to claim an inheritance. Mr Matthews is suffering from mystery illness which causes fainting that doctors have been unable to diagnose. They believe it may he bereditary. ... At present, members of the family lie at rest in their private

chapel at Margam Castle, their former home near Swansea. Margam was sold in the late 1930s but the family continues to own estates in East Lothian and north London.

In 1900, Lady Emily Charlotte Talhot was one of the richest women in Britain, with a legacy valued in those days at £6m. The family gave Port Talbot its name and derived part of its fortune from Fox Talbot, the photographic pioneer.
Mr Matthews was adopted

and only traced his connection with the Fletcher Talbots when he began to investigate his natural roots. He found that his real mother was Ivy Pinn, who worked at Margam Castle as a maid in the 1930s.

She left in 1937 when she became pregnant with him. He was eventually given up to the workhouse in Neath and was

Maid's son plans to disinter bodies in bid to prove

later adopted. His hirth certifi-cate says his father is unknown and records of his adoption are missing from the Neath court

inheritance claim

where they should be lodged.
Diligent detective work enabled Mr Matthews, who works
in the personnel department of a car factory, to locate two half-sisters he never knew he had. They told him about his mother, who died in the Mid-

lands, aged 78, in 1988. Gradually, the pieces came together. In videotaped interviews, former Margam workers told Mr Matthews his mother had a 12-year affair with John "Jock" Theodore Talbot Fletch-

11th Laird of Saltoun, in Scotland, and he was the result. "I had no suspicion at all," said Mr Matthews. "When I was told Jock was my father 1 couldn't believe it - I was looking for a

groundsman or stablehand." John Talbot Fletcher inherited Margam, its 12,000 acres and other estates, when he reached 30 in 1933. He was left them by his great aunt, Lady Emily, who specified in her will that when he died, the legacy should go to his eldest son. But Mr Talbot Fletcher had no legitimate children. Perhaps significantly, his marriage was annulled within days of Mr

Matthew's birth in 1937. Before Mr Talbot Fletcher died last April, aged 91, he was visited by Mr Matthews in Epping, Essex, near the family's Cropped Hall estate. He was until Ivy's name was mentioned. Then the conversation was

ahruptly ended.
Mr Matthews then wrote to
Mr Talbot Fletcher requesting
he take a DNA test. He received a terse response from Mr Tal-bot Fletcher's Cambridge solicitors, Mills and Reeve, saving: "It is totally wrong and inappropriate to trouble a man of his age with such matters."

Mr Anderson, said: "As a lawyer 1'm always pretty sceptical about these stories but there is very strong circum-stantial evidence. The recordings with the old retainers confirm it was common knowledge the master of the house was having an affair with the maid." But Francis Durrant, of Mills and Reeve, said: "There isn't a claim as far as we are con-

Inmate 'raped' prison visitor

Prison staff watched helplessly as a convict held his visitor at razor point and raped her, the

Old Bailey was told yesterday. When officers finally rushed into the room the pair were using for a specially arranged vis-it, he slashed her throat four times exposing her tarynx, the prosecution said. Nicholas Fryers, 28, had a

two-hour supervised visit with the woman at Wormwood Scrubs. When a prison officer warned them time was up. Fryers rose and said he wanted to embrace the woman. "It was a cold and cynical exercise to get her close enough to attack her, Stephen Smyth, for the prosecution, said.

Fryers spun the woman round, holding a razor hlade at her neck. He shouted for the door to he locked and the probation officer was taken outside leaving the pair alone. Fryers shouted several demands and

kicked a chair to the door.
"A number of prison officers were looking in through the windows wondering what to do,' Mr Smyth said

The woman was instructed to lie on the floor and take her knickers off. She thought she was going to he killed and did what she was told. "As she lay on her side, he raped her, keeping the hlade by her neck to enforce his demands."

Mr Smyth said that in normal circumstances where a man was armed, prison officers would have thought the reasonable thing to do was to talk the prisoner round. But they were faced with a rape.

A deputy governor arrived and it was agreed the incident had to be stopped. The door was unlocked and officers rushed into the room, "But hefore they reached him he did what he had threatened and cut her throat - fortunately missing the jugular vein."

The woman received three cuts to the front of her neck and ooe at the back, which was

sewn up by the prison doctor. When interviewed later, Fryers allegedly said: "I admit I had sex, but I asked her first," sug-gesting she consented, said Mr Smyth. Fryers has denied rape and wounding.

The trial continues.

Value of home 'should fund care in old age'

NICHOLAS TIMMINS Public Policy Editor

The Government should initiate a new equity release scheme to allow the elderly to use part of the value of their home to cover their long-term care, a left-of-centre think-tank said

For an average £60,000 home, a couple might have to give up about 45 per cent of its value less if it was worth more, more if it was worth less - with a low-er percentage for single people. But the cash would provide an insurance which could guar-

antee cover against the cost of long-term care. The home would only be sold on death and a guaranteed proportion of the home's value would be passed on as an inheritance.

The call to create Peris - partial equity release insurance schemes - came from the Institute of Public Policy Re-

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costs of long-term care, both in people's own homes and in residential and nursing homes, was set to escalate dramatically. Even allowing for economic growth, costs would double in real terms by 2031, taking about 5 per cent of oational income, against 1.8 per cent now.

The present system of means-tested care, which this year is expected to see 40,000 people having to sell their home, is inequitable, demeaning for people who have always been financially independent and discourages savings, the report says.

Longer-term options include creating a new pay-as-you-go, social insurance, which would be expensive; huilding a funded social insurance which would take 30 years to mature; opting for partial cover - running collective insurance for care costs but not "hotel" costs of long-term care; or developing private/pub-lic partnership schemes.

The last of these is being actively considered by ministers who have promised a White Paper on funding long-term care. Where individuals cover themselves through insurance for a fixed sum of care, the state

search, as it warned that the would add that to the £16,000 of assets which individuals are able to keep when they fall back on means-tested care.

Peris could help with that, according to the author of the report, Ed Richards, a consultant with London Economics, and former adviser to Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor. Today, about 40 per cent of those who retire own their own

home, a figure likely to reach 65 per cent in 20 years time. Creating Peris - something the financial services industry is unlikely to do without government assistance - could take ad-

vantage of that, reducing public spending but without forcing individuals to sell their homes during their lifetime. "At the moment, it is an allor-nothing situation," Mr Richards said. Individuals either had to invest in private longterm care insurance during

their working life, or take the risk of almost all their assets being means-tested away. Creating Peris would provide something in between.

☐ Paying for Long-Term Care; IPPR, 30-32 Southampton St, Leading article, page 14



CPS and police link to boost efficiency

HEATHER MILLS Home Affairs Correspondent

Prosecution lawyers are to work with detectives in police stations in an attempt to improve both efficiency and the quality of cases brought to trial.

Pilot schemes, to be launched in 12 police centres around the country, will test whether more cases get to court more speedily and with less alterations.

But yesterday the Crown Prosecution Service stressed that working alongside police officers would not mean the independence of the service was compromised. There remained a dividing line between a police investigation and the CPS lawyers giving legal advice on the admissibility and worth of the evidence.

If successful, liaison officers are likely to move into all 43 police areas. A similar move was suggested by Labour last year. Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions and head of the CPS, said: "The aim of the initiative is for tawyers and police officers to get it right first time. This will help to ensure that the right cases go to the right court on the right charge

at the right time.
"Lawyers will be advising on evidence and public interest factors in cases, which will help to improve the quality and timeliness of files and promote more efficient use of resources."

The scheme was launched yesterday at Darlington police station, County Durham, where a prosecutor will staff a help desk throughout office hours.

Similar projects will follow in five more stations – Barnsley, Northampton, Shoreditch in east London, Bedford, and Leeds - and at six police administrative support units -Lincoln, South Norwood in south London, Watford, Gwent, Harborne in Birmingham and Thanet in Kent.

Graham Duff, director of CPS operations, said the new procedure would be useful in difficulties over identification, corroboration and hearsay evidence. It was also likely to benefit complex cases, such as child ahuse investigations.

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ing your answer, name, ad-

EMU in crisis: Tory ministers hope high-level rethink will prepare ground for public debate on postponing 1999 launch date

UK fights for single currency review

SARAH HELM

The British government is engaged in a diplomatic offensive to force a review of plans for a European single currency, pos-sibly at the next EU summit in

The strategy explains the minister last week that plans for European Monetary Union by 1999 could collapse "within weeks". The comments were repeated publicly, in scarcely less forceful terms, by the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, at a press conference during a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels yesterday.

Ministers hope such a review would prepare the ground for the first public debate about a possible postponement of the 1999 launch date. Foreign Office lawyers have advised them that a postponement would not necessarily involve rewriting the Maastricht Treaty, as the European Commission claims. But if the majority decided that the treaty did need to be rewritten, "it could be done in five minutes", said one senior official yesterday. "The real issue now is making the political de-cision about postponement," said another British source.

The Government, which has

is it tabling formal proposals for a special summit. The review could even take place at another EU meeting already scheduled for this year, officials said. However, ministers believe that. given the mounting uncertainty over EMU, such a review should be held as soon as possible and preferably at the level of heads of government.

There were strong indications yesterday that Britain would like its EU partners to put the re-view on the agenda of the next summit, to be held in Turin in March, to launch the inter-

showing signs of anger and irritation at what many see as British attempts to undermine the project. Werner Hoyer, the deputy German foreign minis-ter, warned against "talking monetary union into the ground". Hervé de Charette, the French foreign minister, said France would make every effort to be ready to join the single cur-

rency in January 1999. The EU Monetary Affairs Commissioner, Yves-Thibault de Silguy, insisted once again yesterday that most member a vested domestic political ingovernmental conference on terest in EMU postponement, reform of EU institutions.

France, Germany and a majority of EU states will be ready at the end of 1997," Mr de Silguy said in an interview with the French newspaper Le Figuro. He added that to fail, forcing a renegotiation of the Maastricht treaty on European unity and damaging progress toward a single European market, would

be "a catastrophic scenario that I do not dare even to imagine". But Mr Rifkind, in his television and press conference comments yesterday, ques-tioned the credibility of the project in the most strident terms. He urged his partners to

EMU would go ahead as planned. He added: "It is difficull to retain the credibility of the timetable for monetary union simply by statements of intent. We need something

Mr Rifkind strongly hinted that Turin could be the forum for such a debate, saying that discussion of the future of the single currency would become increasingly a priority "over the next few weeks".

stronger than that."

There is no sign yet that either Germany or France would agree to reconsider EMU, which they insist must proceed on the basis of the timetable and

does not wish to be seen to be French and German leaders dictating to its EU partners. Nor continued to rebut British sceptis it tabling formal proposals for ticism about monetary union to take part. "Barring an economic than assertions" that membership rules agreed at membership rules agre Bonn and Paris is that, while questions may he raised on the fringes, governments must hold the line or confidence in the entire project will collapse. Mr Rifkind came close to ac-

cusing his partners of deceiving their publics by blind adherence to rhetoric. "Each day almost. senior European statesmen from France, from Germany, from Spain, from other countries express doubt or uncer-tainty as to whether 1999 is a realistic target. I doubt if this can go on day after day, week after week, without some serious credibility problem," he said.

to tax-cut demands

IMRE KARACS

Helmut Kohl has caved in to his junior coalition partners' demands for tax cuts to boost the

sluggish German economy. In a significant reversal of policy, Chancellor Kohl agreed policy, Chancelor roll agreed to a reduction of the "solidari-ty surcharge" - 7.5 per cent of income tax, which pays for rebuilding east Germany. As the government intends to honour its eastern commitments, the shortfall will have to be made up by the exploding budgets of the national government and

the Lander. This in turn will stifle efforts to keep the federal budget to keep the federal budget deficit within 3 per cent of GNP, as required by the Maastricht criteria for European monetary union. A government report to be released today is extended to the formany pected to confirm that Germany will fail to meet the EMU targets in 1996 for the second year

running.

The "solidarity surcharge" is to be trimmed in the middle of next year, creating a gap of some DM4bn (£1.8bn). The government is also reported to be considering tax cuts amounting to DM34bn. Not all lost revenue will be balanced by less expenditure. Though severe cuts in welfare are scheduled,

these will save only DM32bn, Theo Waigel, the finance minister, proclaimed at the weekend that increasing government dehts to pay for the reveoue shortfall was "out of the question", but this pledge may turn out to be as durable as the promise to keep the "solidariy surcharge" intact. Faced with soaring unemployment and eco-nomic stagnation, Mr Kohl may have to admit that Germany will not be able to escape recession in the confines imposed by

Although the Chancellor refuses to accept that monetary union might have to be postponed beyond 1999, he appears to be increasingly isolated. Der Spiegel reported this weekend that two cabinet ministers and some of his closest advisers were secretly seeking a way out of the "Maastricht trap". he Free Democrats in

sniping at the "solidarity sur-charge", with their leaders threatening to turn the levy into a resignation issue, at the expense of the Kohl government. Now the Free Democrats will be able to proclaim a triumph, putting them in a strong position for three crucial Land elections in March. That should ensure the government's survival, but it might be at the price of abandoning monetary union

Kohl's government have been

British brave minefield to recover their dead

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY

British troops yesterday carved a path through a minefield to recover the bodies of three British soldiers killed when their Spartan armoured troop carrier was blown up by a mine in Central Bosnia on Sunday.

The dead soldiers were named as Lieutenant Richard Madden, 25, single, from Somerset, Trooper Andrew Oving-tion, 25, married, from Peterlee and Trooper John Kelly, 21, sin-gle, from Sunderland. They were from the Light Dragoons, an armoured reconnaissance regiment for the British 4th armoured brigade, at Sipovo.

The Spartan was leading a patrol of two vehicles in the desolate area known as the Anvil. which the British are securing before it is handed back to the Bosnian Serbs under the Dayton peace agreement.

At 2.10 pm, local time the Spartan hit a mine 20 kims west of Mrkonjic Grad. It was not possible to reach the destroyed vehicle over the rough roads un-til dark. The army postponed further attempts until yester-day morning. It took all day to immobilise other mines and clear a way to the bodies.

The Spartan is a light, tracked armoured vehicle able to carry a command team of e as well as its crea of three. The anti-tank mines used in Bosnia are designed to destroy much heavier, main battle tanks, and contain about

5 kgs of high explosive. The centre of Tuzla, the Muslim city in Northern Bosnia. was brought to a standstill yesterday when 1,000 refugees from the former muslim enclave of Srebrenica blockaded the offices of the Red Cross and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The protesters, who damaged several cars, were demanding action to investigate the disappearance of 10,000 people from Srebrenica and the existence of prison camps in the Serb-controlled sector of Bosnia. It is assumed that the missing people - mainly men of military age - were killed and buried in mass graves in the Serb-controlled area after the town fell to the Serbs in July.



Victims: Trooper John Kelly, 21, single from Sunderland

A hig white baoner pro-claimed 200 dana od srebrenicn" (200 days since Srebrenica). Most of the demonstrators were women but they were joined by men in uniform who had survived the 50-mile march from Srebrenica in July, harried by

screamed one woman. Dozens clustered in the courtvard outside the Red Cross building screaming the names of prison camps they said were still in operation. Between 15,000 and 20,000 refugees from the Sre-



"My man is dead and the Red brenica area are accommodat-Cross is doing nothing" ed in the Tuzla region, and virtually every one lost a family member when the town fell. "We want our children, our

brothers," screamed another woman. "Our life here is very difficult but we don't care. We of up to 200 mass grave sites want to find them, or to around the country.

know what happened to them. The investigation of alleged mass graves is the responsibility of the tribunal for war crimes in the former Yugoslavia, which will begin its enquiries at the start of next month, after reports

mines, but other roads in the

area were still risky. A few days

earlier the Bosnian Serb police

had told a colleague a minor

road across the zone of sepa-

ration was clear, but on reach-

ing the former front line, local

people started shouting "mines". He reversed careful-

ly, driving in his tracks.
The British vehicle that stum-

bled on an anti-tank mine west

of Mrkonjie Grad was not so

lucky, but they are normally less

dangerous than the far more nu-

merous anti-personnel mines

which have killed and maimed

far more people round the

world than nuclear, chemical or

biological weapons. In Bosnia



Lieutenant Richard Madden, 25, single, from Somerset

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Grisly harvest of war's hidden killers Christopher Bellamy witnesses the struggle faced by troops

the stream. That's a live one." For a moment, I could not. Then I caught the glint of the

fine wire, almost invisible against the fast-running water, and, on the far side, the antipersonnel mine, hidden among the white, frosted vegetation on the river bank. Anybody stumhling over the wire as they attempted to cross the stream would set off the mine, blasting lethal fragments in all directions at leg or waist height.

Colonel Viktor Rusanov is head of the engineers for the Russian hrigade based north of Tuzla. He estimated there were up to 6 million mines in Bosnia. Back in 1993. I had heard 3 million. One of the reasons why the front lines remained so static for near the front line, but as they so long was the combination of return, they will stumble on the

Yugoslavia, the rump state com-prising Serbia and Montenegro,

said yesterday that it planned to

normalise relations with the

Former Yugoslav Republic of

Macedonia, but the European

Union said this did not go far

enough to merit full EU diplo-

matic recognition of Belgrade.

"We have decided to wait until

Germany's foreign minister,

Klaus Kinkel, said in Brussels.

retary of State, Warren Christo-

pher, had sent him a message

underlining the US view that

He added that the US Sec-

we can be sure of the situation,"

TONY BARBER

Europe Editor

trying to free Bosnia from a deadly legacy of 6 million mines steep oatural obstacles and ground with a metal detector.

mines. Without the resources of a first-rate army, it was impossible to break the deadlock without heavy casualties, which oooc of the warring factions could afford.

The death of three British soldiers on Sunday when their armoured vehicle ran over an anti-tank mine has reminded everyone that after the state of the roads, mines are the higgest problem. It is one that will be-

come worse as people try to start cultivating the land again. During the fighting, people were kept away from areas

formal EU recognition of rump

Yugoslavia would be premature.

The US wants to make sure that

Yugoslavia does not return as

a full member of the interna-

tional community until, among

other things, it has improved its

treatment of the ethnic Alban-

ian majority to the southern

grade said that the Yugoslav

government had approved a

draft treaty recognising Mace-donia, and that the two coun-

tries would sign the agreement

at a later date. If this were to

happen, it would be a significant

step to calming tensions in the

A statement issued in Bel-

province of Kosovo.

deadly legacy of the war. "We lifted six mines yesterday," said Col Rusanov, who had lifted three himself.

"There are at least 15 minefields in this small area alone. I've ordered my men to stop trying to defuse mines this morning, as the fuses will be frozen. Ice on the detonator makes things more difficult, but we expect a thaw tomorrow."
In a neighbouring field, two

Russian soldiers had finished putting up a white tape with yellow tabs - their standard marker for a minefield. "There. The Christmas decorations are complete," joked one of the soldiers, who had been combing the

feared the outbreak of a war in-

volving as many as six countries.

Belgrade's statement left im-

portant questions unanswered

about the nature of the agree-

republics that made up the for-

mer Communist Yugoslav fed-

eration. In the first place, it

referred to Macedonia only by

its capital, Skopje, indicating

that the two countries have not

yet agreed by what name Yu-

goslavia's southern neighbour

goslavia, opposes the use of the

name Macedonia on the

Greece, a close ally of Yu-

should be recognised.

However, in the EU's eyes,

We followed a muddy path across the field very carefully. Nobody was going to step off it, until we reached a small huilding. Cot Rusanov showed us a map of the immediate area, which had been near the front line between Serbs and Bosnian Muslims, north of Tuzla. It was covered with dozens of marks indicating minefields. "All anti-personnel, in this

area," said Col Rusanov. Americans lifted them."

"There were some anti-tank mines on the road, but the The main road to Bijeljina, which passes two of the Russ-

clearing them at a rate of six a day here, six a day there, it will take a long time to dispose of holds back recognition of

ern governments have long grounds that this indicates a territorial claim by the Skopje government on the northern Greek province of Macedonia. The Yugoslav statement also

failed to mention a contiouing dispute over inheritance rights ment with Macedonia, one of six to the assets of former Communist Yugoslavia. The Macedonian authorities indicated vesterday that this issue remained unresolved and an obstacle to mutual recognition.

Lastly, it may be significant that the Yugoslav statement referred only to a "draft treaty" being approved by Belgrade. This suggests that Serbia's President, Slobodan Milosevic, the most powerful Yugoslav leader.

is leaving himself the option of revising certain aspects of the agreement with Maccdonia. The EU and the US have

consistently pressed Mr Milo

sevic to extend diplomatic recognition to Bosnia, Croatia and Macedonia, as this would indicate that he had formally given up hope of annexing parts of those three states to rump Yugoslavia. The 1991-95 wars in Bosnia and Croatia were sparked partly by the Serb ambition of creating a Greater Ser-bian state, while Mr Milosevic's long delay in recognising Macedonia has raised doubts over his intentions towards that

southern Balkans, where West-

SA massacre revives spectre of 'third force'

ROBERT BLOCK Johannesburg

A massacre of job-seekers in Johannesburg yesterday has raised fears that a "third force" is again stoking black-on-black violence in South Africa in order to undermine the government of President Nelson Mandela.

At least eight men were killed and 24 wounded when unidentified gunmen opened fire on 5.000 people waiting for the chance of a job outside the NF Die Casting factory in an industrial park at Alrode, south-

ern Johannesburg.
According to the ruling
African National Congress, the attack bore the hallmark of "third force" activities that plagued greater Johannesburg in the run-up to the historic 1994 the name given to a shadowy alliance between right-wing elements in the security forces and the conservative Zulubased political party, Inkatha.

Security guards and survivors interviewed at the plant and a local hospital said the trouble started at around 3am, when a group of eight men tried to ANC-Inkatha violence has been

night before. When the men were told to join the back of the line, they pulled out AK-47 assault rifles and 9mm automatic weapons and started shooting into the crowd without warning.

The gunmen then fled on loot. Some of the victims, bleeding from hullet wounds, staggered more than half a mile from the seene of the anack before collapsing. Both attackers and victims were black. Hours after the incident, pools of blood, discarded shoes and spent bullet casings were all the evidence left of the slaughter.

One wounded man at the Natalspruit hospital, who was too l'rightened to give his name. claimed that he was the first person shot by the gunmen. He said elections. The third force was that when the men first approached the queue, he had the impression that they were looking to start trouble rather than find work. "I don't know why anybody would want to shoot honest men trying to support their families," said the man,

who was wounded in the leg. Since the election, most

jump the huge queue that had limited to KwaZulu-Natal, formed outside the plant the where the two parties are involved in a bloody war for con-trol of the province. There is evidence that the violence there is being fomented by outside

right-wing elements.
Other than "third force" activities, several alternative motives for the attack have been offered, including tensions between two rival unkins at the plant and the intense competition for jobs.

economy is booming, unemployment remains very high. particularly among the black majority. Rumours of 200 new jobs at the plant caused thousands of men from the nearby East Rand townships of Thokoza, Kathlehong and Vosloorus to descend on the industrial estate 13 hours before the gates opened.

Police have so far suggested no motive for the incident but have announced that they intend to establish a witness protection programme for survivors - a move which suggests that the attack was more than a violent outburst by an-



State of shock: A survivor of the massacre at the Alrode industrial park waits his turn as police begin interviewing witnesses

Gulf states' dispute intensified by 'Zionist' TV jibe

MICHAEL SHERIDAN Diplomatic Editor

A long-running dispute be-tween the small Gulf states of Bahrain and Qatar has taken an unprecedented turn after Qatar's state television broadcast interviews with radical Islamic opponents of the Bahraini ruling dynasty. Such a move is unheard of

among monarchies of the Gulf. who normally overcome disagreements to co-operate in the suppression of religious dissent. Bahrain and Qatar are members of the Gulf Co-operation Council, which exists to preserve the status quo.

The rulers of Bahrain and Qatar have long been at odds



over the ownership of the Hawar islands, small islets between their territories thought to be rich in resources. Bahrain has very little oil, while Qatar possesses enormous reserves

over the years to little consequence. But civil disorder in Bahrain and dynastic uphcaval in Qatar mean that the latest conflict is drawing close attenfrom Western powers who base air and naval forces in the area.

There has been serious uprest among the Shia Muslim majority population of Bahrain, a people off the coast of Saudi Arabia. The government said at rity services. least 550 suspects had been To general rounded up recently after riots the Gulf, Sheikh Salman next and explosions in luxury hotels around the capital, Manama.

The leaders of Bahrain's Shias attack the ruling al-Khal- Bahrain, on 13 January. He was

of natural gas. A few Ruritan-ian skirmishes have taken place inant Sunni strand in Islam. The opposition strongly denies claims by the government that Iran, the only Shia power in the region, is behind the trouble.

Last year the Bahraini aution from Saudi Arabia and thorities exiled several Shia clergymen to London, including a charismatic preacher trained in Iran, Sheikh Ali Salman, who addressed public meetings to denounce the activities small archipelago of 600,000 of Ian Henderson, a British veteran who runs Bahrain's secu-

> To general astonishment in appeared on Qatari television. whose broadcasts from the capital, Doha, can be seen in

interviewed sympathetically on a discussion programme with Dr Mansur al-Jamri, a member of a prominent family opposed to the al-Khalifas. The programme was hardly inflammatory, but Sheikh Salman said those who tried to link Islamic activists to

government does - were agents of "the internationalist Zionist movement". In a direct message to the Bahraini regime, the sheikh added that "dialogue between the religious movement and Arab governments and in-tellectuals is the only way out for the Islamic world from any fu-

terrorism - as the Bahraini

ture bloodbath". Although Sheikh Salman and peninsula are focusing on the prospect of his return to Doha. Dr al-Jamri were careful to stress their commitment to di-

alogue, the very fact that the programme was broadcast signified that relations between Qatar and Bahrain had virtually

broken down. Qatar has lurched between declarations of amity and provocative behaviour ever since its ruler, "the beloved Emir His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifah al-Thani", overthrew his father in an apparently bloodless coup last year. The former Emir was inspecting the family bank de-posits in Geneva when he was deposed and is believed to have transferred much of the cash to his own account. No doubt ag-

ile princely minds in the Arabian

Pro-reform strike in Swaziland eases

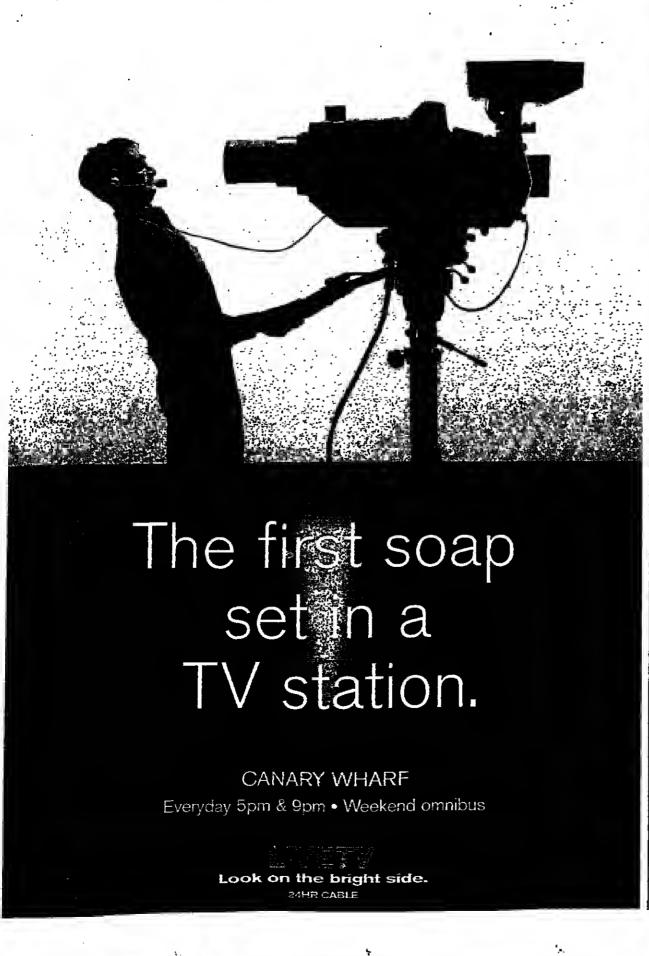
Mbabane (AP) - Shops reopened and factories resumed operations yesterday as a weeklong national strike for democratic reforms in Swaziland Rural sugar and timber plan-

tations remained at a standstill. but the main towns of Mbabane and Manzini teemed with people. A heavy police and military presence helped public transport to resume. The strike shut down the

nation of 1 million people, which is sandwiched between South Africa and Mozambique, for a week. King Mswati III called for people to return to work and accused the strikers is not over.

of seeking to topple the monarchy. A growing pro-democracy movement wants the nation to adopt a constitution that le-galises political parties and makes the king a constitutional monarch with no governing powers. The king indicated that talks on the political situation were possible, but has refused to concede any guarantees

sought by the strike organisers.
"I think people have heeded
the dictator," said Richard Nxumalo, president of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions and one of three labour leaders arrested last week and later released. "But the strike





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Right wing prolongs Italy's political agony

ANDREW GUMBEL

After nearly a month of seemingly intractable governmental crisis, Italy's political parties today begin their third, and what looks like their last, round of consultations with President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, who has promised that by Thursday the crisis will be resolved. The aim of the talks is to try to ward off an immediate dissolution of parliament with a cross-party programme for electoral and constitutional reform.

The country has been at a standstill since Lamberto Dini.

the outgoing prime minister, first handed in his resignation last month at the end of his already temporary mandate. With no clear majority of any kind in parliament, and little prospect of improvement if elections were to be held under the present voting system, Italy has, in effect, turned into a government-free zone.

Political leaders, conscious of the emharrassment they are causing as Italy begins its six-month term as president of the European Union, have been trying to address several problems at once: the need for a new government, the need for a new

electoral system, and the need a second mandate, albeit with for deep constitutional reform. a stronger ministerial line-up to It always seemed unlikely

that a parliament made up of 26 squabbling parties would ever agree to a coherent programme to change the political face of Italy under such high-pressure conditions. And yet there has been more to this crisis than the chronic instability of the Italian system. One man has proved the stumbling-block to a solution at every turn - the leader of the reformed neo-fascist National Alliance, Gianfranco Fini.

When the crisis began, the rest of the political establishment was happy to give Mr Dini

a stronger ministerial line-up to replace his stop-gap team of technocrats, but Mr Fini said no. ter government, as in the past. But again Mr Fini rejected The next proposal was for a government of hroad consensus to take Italy at least through its EU presidency, but again Mr Fini

native to early elections. A panel of cross-party constitutional experts set to work and came up with a new tworound electoral system to reduce the number of parties in parliament, a stronger man-date for the prime minister to

vetoed the plan, saying that only sweeping constitutional change

would he an acceptable after-

provide the country with a clear direction, and a series of disincentives to stop parliament bringing down government af-

the majority view, saying he would stop at nothing short of what he calls presidencialismo conferring sweeping powers on one directly elected political leader who would be only looseaccountable to parliament.

In some ways the young, ambitious Mr Fini has played his cards smartly, using his pivotal role within the conservative coalition headed by Silvio Berlusconi to swing the political agenda his way. Partly exploiting the anti-corruption investigations in Mr Berlusconi's business empire, he has to a large extent stepped out of the shadow of his mentor and staked a claim to the leadership

of the Italian right. Opinion polls show him gaining in popularity, suggesting that of his political peers he would have most to gain from a snap general election.

But the nature of Mr Fini's proposals has produced shivers of alarm, since his concept of presidenzialismo seems dangerously close to the authoritarianism of Mussolini, once

greatest statesman this century. Mr Fini's closest constitu-

tional adviser, Domenico Fisichella, quit the National Alliance three days ago, saying the direct election of a prime minister free of parliamentary constraint would be "essentially illiberal". The CCD, a small Christian Democrat party allied to Mr Berlusconi and Mr Fini, has threatened to withdraw its support unless the measure is

dropped from the agenda. Even Mr Berlusconi was yesterday distancing himself and trying to reassert his own authority within conservative

described by Mr Fini as Italy's ranks. "We have to be careful

into a despot," he said. It was Mr Berlusconi who brought Mr Fini, and his then overtly neo-fascist movement, in from the political cold by joining forces with him for the March 1994 general elections. Mr Fini enthusiastically accepted the offer and in return officially ditched his party's

neo-fascist ideology. It now appears, however, that Mr Berlusconi might have created a dangerous rival, slowly eluding his control - "Gian-trankenstein", as one cartoonist called Mr Fini.

India's graft scandal spreads

TIM McGIRK

India's spreading corruption scandal has engulfed another victim. SR Bommai, president of the left-wing Janata Dal par-ty, was forced to resign yesterday after his name appeared in an Indian industrialist's diary that listed pay-offs made to

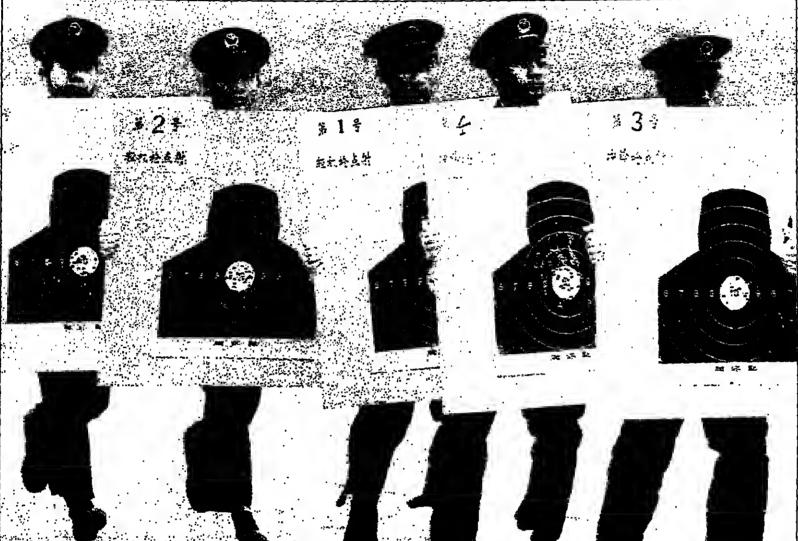
dozens of top politicians. Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister, is accused of receiv-ing £550,000 from the Jain industrialist family, and the opposition is demanding that he should resign. Mr Rao is alleged to have received the sum through a shady holy man and power broker. Chandra Swamy. So far, the explosive contents of the Jain diaries have led to the resignation of the main opposition party president, Lal Krishna Advani of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and three cabinet ministers from the ruling Congress party.

With general elections only three months away, the Janata Dal hastily replaced Mr Bommai with Bihar state's populist chief minister, Laloo Prasad Yaday. The Janata Dal is the largest party within the left-wing National Front, a mosaic of regional alliances and parties representing the country's 120 million Muslims as well as Hindus on the lower rungs of the caste hierarchy.

Mr Yadav comes from Bihar's large hut lowly cow-herding caste, and since taking office as chief minister he has been threatening to turn Patna's exclusive golf course into a school for dairymen. He also enraged upper-caste Brahmins by paving the way for a few Untouchables to become Hindu priests.

No single party may win enough votes in April to form a new government. The Congress party has slipped so badly that, according to a secret opinion poll carried out by the police Intelligence Bureau, it will come third behind the BJP and the National Front.

Peking propaganda: People's Army singalong will be part of attempt to reassure colony



Spot on: Chinese troops who witl garrison Hong Kong retrieve targets at a propaganda display in neighbouring Shenzhen

We love you, Chinese troops tell Hong Kong

It should have been the plum posting for any amhitious Peo-ple's Liberation Army soldier. If yesterday's pledges from Peking are to be believed, however, the thousands of mainland soldiers destined to be gar-risoned in Hong Kong after 30 June 1997 are in for a hard slog.

They can look forward to planting trees, dredging rivers, studying "life" in the colony, holding singalong sessions to proclaim: "I love you, Hong

official duties "and in an or-ganised manner". And, lest Hong Kong is concerned about the appearance of the mainland troops heading their way, they are all well-groomed, and tall by Chinese standards: the male soldiers will all be over 5ft 5in and the women at least 5ft 3in, according to the official Xinhua

news agency.

Such is the sensitivity of a Such is the sensitivity of a things to put Hong Kong peo-PLA garrison being stationed in ple's minds at rest: stunningly

tempt to reassure the popula-tion. Yesterday, in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone bordering the colony, the soldiers put on a flawless display for members of the Sino-Hong Kong Preparatory Committee,

the mainland-appointed body that will oversee China's preparations for 1997. It showed just the sort of

Kong" – and doing an awful lot of reading.

After they arrive, they will not be allowed off hase except on the first of the control of the co blown up and so on.

The image presented by the Peking-controlled newspapers in the colony was rather more benign. Ta Kung Pao newspaper said top of the list of songs adored by the soldiers was "I love you Hong Kong".

Xinhua also emphasised that all the hand-picked soldiers have at least senior middle school education, and that most speak English or Cantonese as

ing training in Shenzhen, they have been studying the "laws, life and social customs" of their future home. "Reading has become an important part of our daily life," one soldier told Chi-

Another promised reporters: "We won't go to saloons, we won't go to bars, we won't go to karaoke parlours." They might not be able to afford the night life in any case; one Peking-run daily said an army commander in Hong Kong would he paid less than £100 a month.

IN BRIEF

Okinawa rape victim 'used like a parcel'

Tokyo - Prosecutors called for 10 years' jail for three US servicemen they said challenged Japanese society by raping a 12-year-old Okinawa schoolgirl last September as though she was a "parcel". Summing up a case that has threatened US bases on Okinawa and clouded President Bill Clinton's April visit, the prosecution said the rape was of unprecedented viciousness and asked for the terms to be with forced tabour. The verdict will be handed down on 7 March by a three-judge panel.

UN set for Iraqi oil-for-food talks

New York - Talks between the United Nations and Iraq on an oil-for-food scheme will begin in New York on 6 February. UN spokeswoman Sylvania Foa said. This followed Iraq's agreement on 19 January to begin negotiations about a plan to permit it to sell \$2bn (£1.33bn) worth of oil over six months to buy hadly needed food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies. Meanwhile President Saddam Hussein insisted that there was no truth in some media reports that he has cancer. "Had we not been in winter I would have crossed the Tigris river back and forth swimming as I have done several times," he said.

Reuter

US jet fighter crashes on houses

Nashville — An F-14 fighter plane crashed into a residential Nashville neighbourhood, setting several houses on fire. A fire official said he feared the pilot had been killed and a local TV station said the pilot and three civilians were dead. There was

35,000 await trial in Nigeria's prisons

Lagos - An average of 10 inmates are dying each week in two of Lagos' main prisons, many of them from malnutrition, the Concord, an independent newspaper reported. This came after the government's acknowledgement on Friday that 35,000 people are awaiting trial in prisons - some as long as a decade.

AP

Austria told where arms are buried

Vienna - The United States handed the Austrian government documents detailing locations and contents of Cold War arms caches hidden in the country to help resist a Soviet invasion. The US ambassador, Swanee Hunt, who told the Austrians of the arsenals last week, delivered the papers to the interior minister. Caspar Einem, who is heading an inquiry into the caches. Reuter

Freed French captives were well treated

Marib, Yemen - Seventeen French tourists freed after being held hostage for five days by Yemeni tribesmen were heading by road for the capital, Sansa. Their captors had set them free after giv-ing them antique gifts, including traditional daggers and firearms. The freed hostages, including 13 women, appeared to be in good

health and had been well treated, officials said. South Africa condemns coup in Niger

Pretoria - South Africa joined world protests against the coup in Niger, with the Department of Foreign Affairs condemning the takeover and calling for constitutional rule to be restored in the West African country. "As long as such events persist on our continent, Africa will not obtain the international respect and esteem to which it is entitled," it said. Lt-Colonel Ibrahim Bare Mainassara, the armed forces chief of staff who ousted Niger's first democratically elected president, Mahamane Ousmane, said the army had no plans to stay in power.

Monks find Buddha beer hard to swallow

Peking - Buddhist monks in east China have forced a local hrewery to give up making its Buddha brand beer, claiming it insulted their reputation and dignity. The China Daily newspaper reported that the brewery agreed to pay 5,000 yuan (£400) in compensation and apologise to the monks for "loss of face". AP

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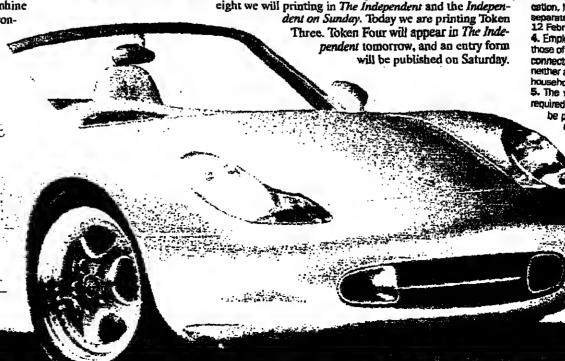
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Separatist hero set for tough test in Quebec

HUGH WINSOR

The man who holds the future nf Quebec and possibly of Canada in his bands, the 58vear-old lawyer and career politician Lucien Bnuchard, was sworn into office as leader of the Quebec provincial government yesterday, vowing to use his new position to pursue his gnal nf secession.

He is faced, however, with an immediate budget crisis and a strong message from the public opinion polls that Quebeckers are tired of elections. He has promised he will spend the immediate future concentrating on rehuilding the economy and attempting to tame a soaring deficit before putting separation to another electoral test.

As the inaugural ceremonies were taking place in Quehec City, the Prime Minister, Jean Chrétien, and 200 nf his Liberal MPs and senators were sequestered in Vancouver for a brainstorming session, seeking strategies to counter the charismatic Mr Bouchard and the increasing support for separatism in Quebec polls.

The federal Liberals are hoping that the realities of running the near-bankrupt Quebec gov-ernment will take some of the shine off Mr Bouchard, and there were some early warning signals about what the new premier is facing at the weekend convention which proclaimed him leader of the Parti Québeçois. Mr Bouchard, who formerly led the Bloc Québecois, the group of separatist MPs elected to the federal parliameot, had pushed aside the retiring Quebec premier, Jacques Parizeau, mid-way through last to be heading for certain defeat.

With emotional rhetoric and a savage personal assault on Mr Chretien as a "traitnr" whn had sold out Quebeckers to Ottawa, Mr Bouchard is general-hy credited with turning the altering campaign around, bringing support for Quebec's independence to within half a percentage point of victory.

His next step, from referendum campaigner in Quebec



Lucien Bouchard: Budget headache looming

Premier, is the direct result of the bizarre performance by Mr Parizeau nn referendum night, when during an angry speech, he blamed the separatist loss on "hig money and ethnics". Mr Parizeau's remarks were seen as a racist insult, and powerful memhers of his Party Quebecols caucus forced him to quit.

But some of those same pow-er brokers warned Mr

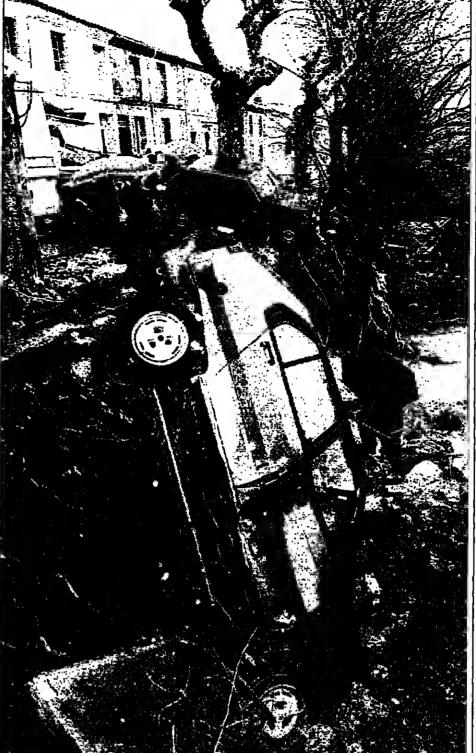
as the independentistes appeared should not tamper with Quebec's generous social welfare when he attempts to regularise

The new premier has called for a period of helt-tightening and warned of funding cut-backs for health, welfare and educatinn, because he does not want to go ahead with a tax increase that had been planned by Mr Parizeau.

This amounts to something of about-face from Mr Bouchard's rhetoric during the referendum campaign, when he had argued that a separate Quebec was the best defence of welfare from the deficit-cutters in Ottawa, Quebec's welfare payments are higher than most other provinces, and its civil servants are paid about 20 per cent mnre than federal counter-

In an effort to upstage Mr Bouchard's swearing-in, Mr Chrétien sbook up his cabinet last week. Four senior ministers, three of them Quebeckers, were forced to make way for new blood. Out of character with his usual caution, Mr Chrétien reached outside Parliament to appoint a 40-year-old University of Montreal political scientist, Stephane Dion, as bis new minister of inter-governmental affairs, in charge of the national unity issue. He is already heing compared with

A staunch federalist, Mr Dion has already warned Mr Bouchard that if Quebec can split away from Canada, then Quebec is also divisible. The strongly pro-federal Montreal area as well as the northern lands inhabited by the equally



But some of those same powers brokers warned Mr bouchard last weekend that he from Quebec to rejoin Canada. | Cars swept away by floodwaters in the village of Puisserguier in southern France yesterday. Four people, including two children, were killed when flash floods swept from Quebec to rejoin Canada. | through the Herault department | Photograph: Patrick Gardin/AP

California bikers trade leathers for lobbying

TIM CORNWELL

Be Courteous to Our Neighbours," reads the sign at the gate of the Sagebrush Café, nnt far from a double row of Harley-Davidsons. "Please Don't Rev Your Engines in the Car Park."

Tony Bourne is a designer in the garment trade, but this Su-perbowl Sunday be's sporting the badge of the Southern California Harley Riders Association, smoking a pungent little cigar and spitting obscenities. "Helmet laws should be for minors. We're adults that know hetter. Kids, they're the ones that keep crashing all the time." California's biker fraternity

runs from yuppies riding custom hikes on Sunday jaunts to a hard core whn live in the saddle. But there is one issue that unites them - loathing for the state's helmet law, enacted in 1991. It has driven them to trade bikers' brawn for political muscle.

Fighting far the right ta cruise the Pacific highways with the wind in their hair, hikers' groups are recognised as some of the state's sharpest political operators. Last week the California assembly voted 42-30 to repeal the helmet law. The new Republican majority, in a curious alliance with people usually associated in the public mind with drugs, gangs, and violence, rallied to the hikers' cause. Legislators cited freedom of chnice against the nanny state.
"I'll give you my Benjamin

Franklin quote," said Bogie, 52, a hiker and sometime bouncer at the Sagebrush. " 'When you give up freedom for security, you lose both'. And how about this one? More people die of obesity than motorcycle accidents in America. Let's outlaw butter'.

Bikers have been attending civics classes, raising money, holding rallies and walking the corridors in the state capital, Sacramento. They clashed

California insurance industry on the helmet issue. Republican legislators disregarded evidence that fatal accidents among the 500,000 registered mutorbike owners in California had fallen by 45 per cent since the law's passage. They now threaten to override the veto of their own party's Governor, Pete Wilson,

Paul Lax, a Los Angeles attorney and motorcyclist, who is secretary of the hikers' group Abate (American Brotherhood Aimed Toward Education), said California was the last state to enact a helmet law. At one time or another 49 states had such statutes but similar biker campaigns ended in the repeal of

more than half. Abate first targeted and toppled the California assemblyman who wrote the beimet law. The group found a female opponent who was sympathetic to the cause, and a contingent of bikers doubled ber campaign staff overnight. "We don't gn into the campaign headquarters to drink coffee; we go to work." said Mr Lax. "We can never compete with the nther labby groups or the insurance industry in terms of dollars. We have to put shoe leather mto this."

Instead, bikers go from door to door - in non-threatening jeans and trainers, rather than leathers - and talk about the candidate rather than helmets.

David Knowles, a Republican assemblyman who voted for the law, remembers being surrounded by a group of angry motorcyclists in leathers as he shook hands at a local parade. "When they held out their business cards instead of razor hlades, they impressed me," said Mr Knowles, who shortly afterwards reversed his stand.

"I realised they were not irresponsible people – they were working folks who wanted government out of their hair and

Greek flag row gets Turkish goat

HUGH POPE

Notice of Signature

No better symbol of the pettiness of Turkish-Greek conflicts could have presented itself than a harren group of rocky islands in the Aegean, which has a "war of the flags" hetween the two countries.

The fuss started on 26 December when a Turkish coaster ran aground on the guano-covered archipelago, known as Imia in Greek or Kar-dak in Turkish. The islands whose only inhahitants are goats - are ahout halfway between the Greek island of Kalymnos and Turkey's Bodrum peninsula, a magnet for British

The coaster's captain initially refused to be towed off by expensive Greek tugs. The two foreign ministries exchanged notes. And that should have

But the mass media of the two countries had scented a story. Right-wing Greek media, possibly keen on a situation that could emharrass the new socialist government, highlighted the mayor of Kalymnos's deci-sion to assert Greek sovereignty by driving a stake into the rocks and tying a Greek flag to

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A conservative Turkish media group that is often quick to attack Greece responded on Saturday, flying a journalist to the rock by helicopter, ripping down the Hellenic stripes and running up the star and crescent.

By Sunday, it was the Greek Greek flag up again. Turkish coastguard cutters moved up. Ambassadors were summoned in capitals and the allies of the fractious Nato members were informed. "This is the kind of dispute that only a Turk or a Greek can understand," said a foreign diplomat in Ankara. "The rest of the world can only throw up its hands in disbelief."

Athens daims it was given Imia in 1948 when Italy ceded the south-east Aegean islands known as the Dodecanese to Greece. Italy had taken them from the Turks in 1912. The legal position of the outcrops is dehatable - they are probably possibly Turkey's if interna tional laws were applied - and the atmosphere may be ripe for

A Greek spokesman laughed at such talk and hlamed the media for exaggerating the story. He suggested that the most sensible way to resolve the dispute would be to have a referendum among the goats.

escalation

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obituaries/gazette

Joseph Brodsky

in 1987 Joseph Brodsky, then 47, became the youngest person ever to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature. It had been widely expected, honouring a poet who, born in one culture, had become a master of another.

Brodsky was an only child, born in Leningrad in 1940. His father, Alexander Brodsky, was serving as a naval officer - he only met him once before the age of eight; his mother, Maria Volpert, worked as a secretary, well below her intellectual capacity. In 1949, Brodsky's father was dismissed from the navy during a wave of anti-Semitism, and could only eke out a piecemeal career as a photojournal-ist. Brodsky would write about the "forty square metres" in which the family lived in the es-say "In a Room and a Half", recalling the cramped conditions (though generous by Soviet standards) which helped to make him inward, bookish,

solitary.
At 15, Brodsky left school, at about which time he began to write poetry. He worked variously as a labourer, a mill operative and a mortuary assistant among other jobs, while his complex love-life came to centre on Marina Basmanova and their son Andrei: these difficult ties were the subject of some of his most moving early work. Brodsky began publishing when he was 18, and rapidly made a considerable reputation. In 1960 he met Anna Akhmatova, the longest-lived of the great generation of berself, Boris Pasternak, Marian Tsvetayeva and Osip Mandelstam, She admired his work but dreaded seeing "The golden stamp of failure / On this yet untroubled

brow". Her fears were justified. Brodsky's success, and the enthusiasm provoked by his readings, alarmed the authorities. Accounts of what happened between December 1963 and January 1964 vary - some have Brodsky on the run, some confined to a psychiatric hospital.

At all events, this period end- stitutions he was associated ed with Brodsky being put on trial. The charge was "social parasitism".

The judge, Savelyeva, asked Brodsky who had given him authorisation to be a poet, and he replied, "No one. Who was it who decided I was a member of the human race?" It was for this prickly independence of spirit, rather than anything specifically political, that the poet was punished. At a second hearing, he was exiled for five years to the village of Norinskaya in the Archangel region.

The Brodsky trial was a turning-point for the developing dissident movement: it was also an international scandal. and Brodsky was released early, in September 1965. In exile, he had read W.H. Auden's "In Memory of W.B. Yeats", and its dictum that time "Worships language and forgives / Every-one by whom it lives" had set his ethical compass. "If time worships language, it means that language is greater, or older, than time, which is, in its turn, older and greater than space." Brodsky wrote; a poem was now "a game language plays to restructure time". Though released, Brodsky

continued to be persecuted, and was forbidden to accept the foreign invitations his reputation had earned. Finally, on 4 June 1972, he was expelled from the Soviet Union and sent to Vienna. He was met by the American scholar Carl Proffer, who two days later took him to Auden's house in Kirchstetten (Auden was already writing an introduction for Brodsky's Selected Poems, his first appearance in English). During the harge of Brodsky's affairs, seeing to it that he met useful people and received money from the Academy of American

Brodsky soon joined Carl Proffer as his colleague at the University of Michigan, the beginning of his career in American academia, Other in-

with include Columbia, New York University, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and, in England, Cambridge. Brodsky received many academic and public honours, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a MacArthur Foundation award,

an honorary doctorate from

Yale, the Nobel Prize and, in 1991, appointment to the oneyear post of Poet Laureate of the United States. In 1990 Brodsky married Maria Sozzani: they had one child. He had undergone three heart operations by the time he was 40, but continued to smoke

heavily. He never returned to the Soviet Union, partly perhaps for medical reasons, partly per-haps because he had been away for too much of his life when Soviet Communism Brodsky became a familiar

figure on the international readg circuit. Together with Derek Walcott Seamus Heaney and Les Murray, he belonged to the most esteemed group of living poets, although he also formed part of the Eastern émigré cluster including Czeslaw Milosz and Tomas Venciova.

His reputation as a writer in the West was enhanced by three collections published in English, Selected Poems (1973), A Part of Speech (1979) and To Urania (1988). He was also an exceptional critic and memoirist, as shown by Less than One: selected essays (1988), and he published two plays, Marbles (1985) and Democracy (1990). His essay on Venice, Watermark (1992), is the kind of book travel-writing exists to produce.

Poets usually fear exile because it cuts them off from the language on which they depend. Brodsky told me that this had not been a problem for him, given the ease with which he could always drive north into Canada and listen to Russian radio. Nonetheless, he began to write some poems in English, as well as increasingly translating zani (one child); himself. The results met with 28 January 1996.

mixed responses. Sometimes Brodsky a vocabulary seems a httle aside of what he means, as in the line "thrice let knives rake my nitty-gritty", which is an odd way of expressing heart-surgery. Those who complained about apparent technical deficiencies too easily forgot, though, that Brodsky was engaged in creating a new idiolect, precisely the half-English of a deracinated man. From his mentor Auden he learn to rummage in the more arcane areas of English vocabulary, and the resulting style is, while sometimes disconcerting, usually self-consistent and achieved.

Joseph Brodsky's poems are

allusive, difficult, learned pieces, influenced by the intellectual concision of John Donne as well as the sudden transitions of Osip Mandelstam. Indeed, though Akhmatova admired him, she was puzzled by his at-tendance on her. The difficulty she found in his work was very far from her own clarity. and we should probably see Brodsky as Mandelstam's beir. Through him, the culture of prerevolutionary St Petershurg found a continuing voice. Ex-ploring the relation of man and art to time, expressing a great love for the created world and an open attitude to faith (his own position was variable), Joseph Brodsky belonged to a high humanist tradition, and the endless excitement of his darting perceptions kept alive the values of the European

civilisation that shaped him. He wrote that "until brown clay has been crammed down my larynx, / only gratitude will gushing from it"; now, it is ours to be grateful. His early death is a catastrophic loss for Russian and American

Lachian Mackinnon

Joseph Alexandrovich Brodsky. poet: born Leningrad 24 May 1940; Nobel Prize for Literature 1987; married 1990 Maria Sozzani (one child); died New York



A high humanist tradition: Brodsky - allusive, difficult and learned

Malcolm Munthe

Malcolm Munthe's life and work we informed by two central helies - the redeeming power of art on the individual and of monarchy on society.

Inextricably mingled with these two principles was his passionate attachment to his English mother, Hilda Pennington-Mellor, whose devoted care was in total contrast to the near indifference of his brilliant Swedish father, Axel Munthe, renowned throughout Europe as a healer, the author of The Story of San Michele (1929) and a mesmeric womaniser.

Malcoim Munthe's long vigorous life was divided in two by the Second World War. With the dynamic optimism of his youthful pre-war years, he studied for a Politics degree at the London School of Economics at the same time as running a boys' cluh in a deprived quarter of Southwark, preparing himself for a career in the Conservative Party and taking part in the so-cial round of debutante balls and London clubs. In 1939 be was offered the comparatively safe Tory seat of East Ham South, but the war intervened. Munthe returned home from

the war haunted by his vision of a tortured, tattered, bombedout, impoverished Europe that seemed to be heading into terminal decline. Although he remained in the Army long after 1945, teaching the techniques of sabotage, covert operations and espionage, his ambitions now lay

He turned his back on the present and started to gather in the past. He decided to make a cultural ark ont of his disparate but extensive family inberitance. It was a grand vision, somewhat hampered by Munthe's financial resources. His charm and single-mindedness attracted the support of two childless maternal cousins with exquisite aesthetic sense. Lord Wharton contributed his collection of pictures, while Lady Helena Gleichen added her Jacobean manor-house to what was to become the Family Trust.

By selling surplus property in London, Somerset, Biarritz, Dallna, Rome and Capri, Munthe was able to raise sufficient funds to maintain the roofs on four houses crammed with pictures and furniture: the Swedish manor-house of Hildasholm by Lake Siljan; the medieval Castle Lunghezza, between Rome and Tivoli; and a pair of Jacobean manorhouses in England, one outside, Much Marcle in Herefordshire. and Southside House, tucked ly among the suburban villas of Wimbledon. He was supported by the tireless labour of his wife Ann and assisted, whenever allowed, by his chil-

dren, Adam, Katriona and Guy. These houses are all magical domains, tributes to the imagination and historical passion of Malcolm Munthe, who made a strict yearly calendar for himself based around their respective tourist seasons and annual needs. He lived a Spartan existence, selecting the darkest, least comfortable quarters for his own use, wearing old clothes and surviving on a dict of hlack tea, biscuits and packet soup

enlivened by the odd raw egg. He remained until the last the most inspired guide, combining a near perfect sense of theatrical timing with a curious otherworldliness which made even the most doubtful of attributions take on the bright flame of truth. I never once heard him identify himself to tourists, draw attention to pictures he had painted (which he often passed off as the work of his hrother), or talk about his war years in other than self-mocking dep-recation, while he allowed his

of a Herefordshire manor. The Bunty Boys and Sweet is War) to sink into undeserved obscurity. His manners were impecta-

ble. He had the long, graceful hands of an ascetic and instead of a handshake would cup your hand with both of his. In the last month of his life he revealed the true depths of his self-discipline. The day before he died he left the hospital with notes for two new books.

Baroaby Rogerson

Malcolm Munthe's disarmingly gentle voice, charm and sense of humour concealed a hrave, tough and resourceful strength of character, writes Peter Lee.

Enlisting as a private in the Gordon Highlanders, he was sent to an OCTU and then summoned to the War Office. There he met Andrew Croft and Peter Fleming, lifelong friends. After a bectic course in explosives they were dispatched to Finland, and disrupted the railways before the Finns capitulated.

Munthe arrived in southern Norway as liaison officer to the Norwegian army in March 1940, the same time as the Germans. After being wounded in the leg and captured, he was "allowed" to escape to Sweden by a friendly German army ex-medical student who was supposed to hand him over to the Gestapo.

Back in England, he was sent for by Sir Charles Hambro, the head of the Special Oper-



Munthe; otherworldlines

ations Executive. From August 1941 to the end of 1942 he ran the SOE's Norwegian section, before returning to the field, this time to "Massingham", the

SOE hase in North Africa. In summer 1943 he travelled to Sicily and then to Salerno to contact Italian resisters. He went over to Capri to ensure that his father's villa, San Michele, was requisitioned for the English, set up a small unit on the island, and from it one of his best coups took place. anti-Fascist philosopher whom neither Hitler nor Mussolini had dared to silence, was living in the Villa Tritone at Sorrento. The Allies persuaded him to leave at dead of night with his elder daughter. Next morning the Germans surrounded the villa. Munthe decided to rescue Signora Croce and her daughter himself, and with Alberto Tarchiani (later Italian ambassador to Washington) set off for the villa. Luckily the guards had withdrawn to repair a bridge bombed by the RAF, and the

rescue was swiftly effected. Soon afterwards Munthe set up headquarters in liberated Naples. On 6 February 1944, he and Michael Gubbins (son of General Sir Colin Gubbins) were hit by a mortar shell while trying to get through the lines of Cassino. Gubbins was killed outright and Munthe so severely wounded that he took no further part in the war.

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Malcolm Grane Munthe, soldier and preservationist: born London 30 January 1910; married 1945 Anna Rea (one son, one daugh-ter, ond one son deceased); died three books (Hellens: the story London 25 November 1995.

A memorial service for the life of Malcolm Munthe takes place today, at St James's Church, Piccadilly. London W1, at 11ain.

Ralph Yarborough

Ralph Yarborough was that rare hird in the politics of his generation: a Texas liberal. He was in fact what is known in Texas politics, metaphorically, as a "bomb-throwing" liberal. His former aide and political heir. Jim Hightower, called him "a guy willing to take on the powers that be, take 'em by the scruff of the neck and go right aft**er** them."

It was in an attempt to heal the hitterness between the conservative faction of Texas democrats, led by Governor John Connaily and the Yarborough liberals, that President John F. Kennedy made the fatal journey to Dallas in the course of which he was assassinated. And it was because he was not on speaking terms with Connally

Tommy Mitchell was at 93 the

oldest surviving English Test

player and one of only three

cricketers alive who featured

in the famous Bodyline series

of 1932-3, the others being

the Australians Leo O'Brien,

aged 88, and Sir Donald Brad-

man, 87. Mitchell, a tough, hu-

morous little man, enjoyed the

As a leg spinner in the 1930s

when most county clubs had a

good one, he was outstanding

enough to play five times for

England, and it was on Jardine's

tour that he twice dismissed the

implacable Woodfull in a Test

that Yarborough was in the eral measures including insecond, not in the leading car of the motorcade which was fired into by the assassin.

Yarborough made a greater mark in history the following year, when he was the sole southern senator to vote for the epoch-making Civil Rights Act of 1964. Before that he had steered through Congress the National Defense Education Act of 1958, the first legislation ever in the United States to commit the federal government to support universities since the land grants made in the 19th century.

As chairman of the Senate's Labor and Public Welfare Committee in the 1960s Yarborough consistently and effectively pushed through lib-

and bowled Bradman, in a State

A miner, who wore specta-

cles, Mitchell was spotted bowl-

ing at the Creswell colliery

pithead during the General Strike of 1926. He was recom-

mended to Derbyshire, who

were so impressed by the prodi-

gious turn be achieved that he

made his first class debut in 1928

and was an integral part of the

county's team for 11 years, tak-

ing 1,483 wickets at an average

Derbyshire finished 3-2-1 in the years 1934-5-6, their only championship, when Mitchell

game, with a googly.

creases in medical care and the minimum wage.

Ralph Yarborough's life explodes the notion that liberalism in America is a political doctrine associated with the "hard scrabble" farm in east Texas, a region of corn and cotton farming with a legacy of slavery more like the old South than the open rangeland of west Texas. He was the seventh of 11 children of a farmer.

He won a nomination to the United States Military Academy at West Point, but did not stay. He worked variously as a teacher, as a farm labourer, and building oil storage tanks. In the Twenties he worked his way to Europe on a freighter before re-

Tommy Mitchell

was at the beight of his powers,

described as merry-hearted but

prope to the occasional melan-

choly that overtakes most spin-

ners. Short-legged but long-

armed, he could howl leg-

breaks, topspinners, googlies and off-hreaks with almost

equal facility and could flight the

In a gentle pre-war profile in the Observer, R.C. Robertson-

Glasgow described him as

"something of a Donald Duck. No cricketer so conveys to the spectators the perplexities and

frustrations of a man at the mer-

cy of malignant fate. He has

turning home to the University of Texas law school at Austin. He rose rapidly, serving as assistant attorney general of Texas from 1931 to 1935 and as a state

judge from 1936 to 1941. When war came, he volunteered for General George Patton in Europe, winning the Bronze Star and ending as a lieutenantcolonel. He was briefly the military governor of a large part of Houshu in Japan. After the war he practised law

in Austin. Three times he ran for governor of Texas, and each time he was defeated by conservative Democrats close to the oil industry. At last, in 1957, he was elected, defeating the ultra-conservative Martin Dics. Yarborough remained in the

much in common with the

golfer who misses short putts

because of the uproar of the

hutterflies in the adjoining

In Jardine's team Mitchell

was close to Larwood, another

Midlands miner. Once pressed

to reveal all about his mate,

Mitchell responded: "Harold

doesn't say much. He doesn't

Mitchell bowled his overs

quickly, turning sharply at the

end of his short run, and his en-

ergy and zest was communi-

cated to his fielding where he

was described as a brilliant cov-

have to. He just bowls.

meadow.

Senate until he was defeated by the future vice-presidential candidate Lloyd Bentsen in 1971. Along the way, he defeated

the future president George Bush for the Senate in 1964. The names of Lyndon Johnson, of whom Yarborough opposed from the Left, are a reminder of how important Texas was then to national politics.

Yarborough was an uncompromising man. He once got into, and lost, a physical wrestling match on the floor of the senate chamber with the senator Strom Thurmond, the leader of the unreconstructed "Dixiecrat" wing of the Democratic Party at the time.

Ralph Webster Yarborough, politi-cian: born Chandler, Texas 8 June At his peak, Yarborough was a flamboyant stump speaker. At 27 January 1996.

er point. Mitchell took 100

wickets a season between 1929

and 1938 (168 in 1935 is suil a

county record), took 10 wickets

in a match 29 times and took all

10 Leicestershire wickets, for

64 runs, at Aylestone Road in 1935. When he retired from

cricket he went back to the

where the spinner was generally

regarded as merely a relief

Mitchell was a rare gem.

In a county, and a team,

coalface.

his country meetings, his poor constituents would throw dol-

lar hills and coins on to a hlan-

ket to pay for his expenses. He

once said that "you take a ter-rific loss financially if you play

Lyndon Johnson were never

easy and in 1968 they froze to

sub-zero temperatures when

Yarborough backed the Viet-

nam peace movement led by

Senator Eugene McCarthy, Two

years later Bentsen was able to

use Yarborough's attacks on the

1903: married; died Austin, Texas

Godfrey Hodgson

Vietnam war to defeat him.

it straight" in politics.

bowler for the regiment of Thomas Bignall Mitchell, cricketer. ambitious seamers, Tommy born Creswell, Dertyshire 4 September 1902; married 1927 Doris Varcoe (one son, one daughter); died Doncaster 27 January 1996. Derek Hodgson

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

SCOTT: On 25 January, at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, to Tina (nee Bartlett) and Brendan, a beau-tiful new daughter, Maia, sister to

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS 1Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deatha, Memortal services, Wedding anniversaries, in Memortam) should be sent in writing Memoriam) snouin we sent to writing to the Gazette Editor. The Independent, I Canada Square, Camary Wharf, London Et 4 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2010, and are at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (no-tices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be sul in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Princers Margaret, President, National ciety for the Prevention of Creeky to Chil-yout J.C. Bamford Excavators Ltd. Rocease d Excessions Ltd. Recenter, and for money raised by complayers Mid-Staffordshire Branch orb

Changing of the Guard
The Household Creater Mounted Pargin mounts the Owen's Life Guard at Horse Guard larse, by Battalion Insh Guards mounts

Birthdays

Sir Herbert Ashworth, former chairman, Nationwide Building Society, 86; Mr Jack Bowman, former Chief Constable, Tayside, 65; Sir Frederick Catherwood, former MEP, 71; Sir John Dutton Clerk of Penicuik Bt. former Lord-Lieutenant of Mid-lothian, 79; Mr Phil Collins, musician, actor and singer, 45: Miss Christina Foyle, bookseller, 85; Sir Robert Gatehouse, former High Court judge, 72. Mr Gene Hackman, actor, 64; Mr Lynn Harrell, former Principal, Royal College of Music, 52, Mr Patrick Heron, painter, 76, Professor Christopher Howes, Second Commissioner and chief executive of the Crown Estate, 54: The Earl of Huntingdon, racehorse trainer, 48. Viscount Long, a Lord in Waiting, 67, Lord Mackay of Drumadoon QC, Solicitor-General for Scotland, 50: Lord Lowry, former Lord Chief Jus-tice of Northern Ireland, 77; Sir Charles Maniell, High Court judge. 59; Professor Stan Mason, Vice-Chancellor, Glasgow Caledonian University, 62; Mr Bob Muddimer. chairman, Rank Hovis McDougall, 63; Mr Mitch Murray, song composer and producer. 56; Sir Foley Newns, former overseas administrator, 87; Professor Alexander Ogston, former President, Trinity College, Oxford, 85; Mr Louis Osman, architect and goldsmith, 82; Mr Hal Prince, theatrical director and producer, 68, Miss Vic-

ioria Principal, actress, 46: Mr John

judge, 52; Mr Boris Spassky, chess champion. 58. Mr Martin Taylor, chief executive, Barclays Bank, 52.

Anniversaries

Births: Walter Savage Landor, author, 1775; Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 32nd US President, 1882, Deaths: King Charles L executed 1649; Frank Nelson Doubleday, publisher and editor, 1934; Orville Wright, aviation pioneer, 1948. On this day: Adolf Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany, 1933; the state funeral of Sir Winston Churchill took place, 1965. Today is the Feast Day of St Adelehous or Alexande, St Aldegundis, St Barsimacus, St Bathildis, St Hyacintha Mariscotti and St Martina.

Lectures Righgate Literary and Scientific Institution, London N6: Dawn Ades. "The Surrealists", 7.45pm. RIBA Architecture Centre, London W1: Liza Fior. Katherine Clark, Juliet Bidgood, "Born Free", Dave King and Rod McAllister. "... in

Royal Over-Seas League Mr Derick Heaven, Jamaican High Commissioner, was the guest speak-er at a meeting of the Royal Over-Seas League's Discussion Circle held yesterday evening at Over-Seas House, St James's, London SW1. His

Magistrates cannot question child support assessment

Security v Shotton and others; Oncen's Bench Division (Mr Justice Latham); 23 January 1996

On a complaint that a deduction from earnings order made in relation to child support was defective, magistrates had no power to question the as-sessment of child support or to order repayment of sums paid under a defective deduction from earnings order.

Mr Justice Latham allowed five appeals by the Secretary of State against magistrates' decisions under the Child Support Act 1991.

The Act imposed responsibility for maintaining a child on each parent. A child support officer made a maintenance assessment or an interim maintenance assessment. Assessments could be reviewed and appealed to a child support appeal tribunal, a child support commissioner and the Court of

Appeal.
Collection of child support could be made by a deduction from earnings order or a liability order. Sections 32(b) and

LAW REPORT

30 January 1996

33(4) provided that, on appeal In the third appeal, magisagainst a deduction of earnings trates quashed a deduction from earnings order on the order or on application for a libasis of a procedural defect in ability order, the court should the making of an interim

not question the maintenance assessment order. In the assessment. Regulation 22 of fourth appeal, the magistrates the Child Support (Collection refused to make a liability orand Enforcement) Regulations der for payment of £6,839 1992 provided that an appeal for arrears under an interim against a deduction from earnmaintenance order made ings order could be made only without reference to the reon the grounds that the Order spondent's means on the basis was defective or the payments that the respondent had supdid not constitute earnings. plied all documentary details Regulation 9 set out the matters to be included in an order. io the Child Support Agency

In the first appeal, the refor making a maintenance spondent claimed that he was no longer liable to make pay In the fifth appeal, the magistrates ordered repayment of ments under a deduction from monies deducted under a deearnings order made in March duction from earnings order 1994 after the child went to live with him in August 1994. The which was defective. magistrates decided the order Mark Shaw (Department of Social Sewas defective after August curity Solicitor) for the Secretary of 1994. In the second appeal, the State: Nick Lockett (Pictons) for the magistrates decided that an indent in the fifth case.

assessment of maintenance was defective and quashed a Mr Justice Latham said that all deduction from earnings order. matters relating to the quantification or validity of a maintenance assessment were to be dealt with through the review and appeal structure created by the Act.

The right of appeal against enforcement given by regulation 22 was restricted to two technical grounds. As any challenge to the quantification or validity of the maintenance assessment was precluded, the word "defective" in regulation 22 could only mean a defect in form, namely a failure to comply with the requirements of

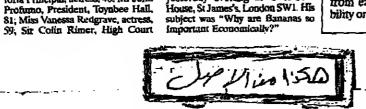
regulation 9. As far as liability orders were concerned, the consequence of section 33(3), taken with 33(4), was that the sole question to be determined by the magistrates was whether or not payments had become payable by the liable person and had not heen paid. If that was established the magistrates were bound to make a

liability order. In the first appeal the mag-

istrates could entertain a complaint only within 28 days of the actual making of the deduction from earnings order and had no jurisdiction to find the order was defective on the basis that the child was not a qualifying child. In the second, third and fourth appeals the justices were not entitled to question the validity of the maintenance

In the last appeal it would be surprising if the power to quash a deductions from earnings order under regulation 22 was intended to include a power to order repayment. The Child Support Agency was merely collecting money. The consequence of an order for repayment would be to require the agency, which had not been unjustly enriched because the money had gone to the parent with care of the child, to pay a sum of money to the liable parent. The magistrates court had no power to order repayment of sums paid under a defective deduction from earnings

Ying Hai Tan, Barrister



They laughed when Andrew Lloyd Webber said he wanted to put TS Eliot to music. Who's laughing now? asks Rebecca Fowler

How 'Cats' conquered the world

hey said it would never work: a musical in which grown men and women would dress up as cats and sing along to the words of TS Eliot's poetry. It was spurned by theatrical investors as madness, scoffed at by critics and until the very first night disaster was predicted for Cats. Even that was blighted by a bomh scare, which cleared the theatre.

But 15 years on, Cais, the musieal, is the most successful show in the world. Last night, on its 6,138th performance, it overtook A Chorus Line as the longest-running musical ever in London. Its ereators, Andrew Lloyd Webber, the composer, and Cameron Mackintosh, the producer, have both received knighthoods; and hetween them they have been at the forefront of establishing the musical as the greatest commercial force in the history of British theatre.

When audiences finally beheld the spectacle, it was like nothing else to have appeared on the British stage. The Jellicle cats exploded from every corner of the theatre in the opening scene, rolling around in the Lycra and legwarmers that became the dance uniform of the Eighties: the New London Theatre was rehuilt to accommodate a set that broke all boundaries by using the whole of the theatre instead of just the stage: the frenetic combination of acting, dancing and singing huried the convic-tion that Britain could not take on the Americans at their own game; and one song, "Memory", was etched on the national consciousness, sung by everyone from street buskers to opera

ingers. According to its supporters. Cats' greatest legacy was to create an entire new audience of theatre-goers,

eager for the new mix of populism and innovation, who had been turned off by theatre's élitism. In its first eight years, every seat in the house was sold; even now only a house was sold; e handful lie empty.

Raymond Gubbay, the promoter who puts on hugely popular shows of classical hits, said: "It brought a huge number of people to the theatre who uldn't otherwise have come, and broke all the barriers. Even the set broke away from tradition and the proscenium arch, to make it more accessible and

less formal." Sir Andrew, fiercely sensi-tive, still has his critics who accuse him of dragging theatre down to the lowest common denominator. None, however, can deny the power of Cats as a popular institution on a par with the

> more recently, the National Lottery. As the public fell in love with the Lycra and the crashing

Mackintosh piled up

Royal Family and,

chords of "Memory" Lloyd Webber and

prolific figures in British musicals. Sir Andrew remembers it as a high-risk venture: "We knew that when it came to the crunch we would either come up with something very extraordinary or a total turkey. I had forgotten how close we came to calling the whole thing

Still searching for the last £50,000 to launch the production, Lloyd Wehber, having already remort-gaged his house, invited senior arner Brothers executives to listen to him playing the score on his piano. They weren't impressed. In the end, he and Mackintosh raised three-quarters of the £450,000 capital they needed from small invest who put in £750 each.

The financial success in large part stemmed from the innovative marketing strategy created for the show. Under the guidance of the legendary producers Robert Stigwood and David Land, who produced Evita, they franchised the show in much the same way as McDonald's has franchised its method of making and selling hamburgers. In the past there have been shows that have transferred from Shaftesbury Avenue to Broadway. Cats took the international ent plane. It created the theatre production as a global product; Andrew Lloyd Webber became a global Sheridan Morley, the theatre

critic and broadcaster, described it as a breakthrough for the economic potential of theatre. "Until the end of the Sixties, shows that opened in London would be bought for America in the way that books were, and redone by the Americans for the Americans. What they established was this idea of moving in like a task-force, to put exactly the same show on whether it be in Manchester or Malaysia. It showed we could provide a musical that could rival anywhere, including the Americans,

and export it."
The effects of its financial success spread beyond the theatre, including establishing Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber as a significant patron of the fine art sales rooms. His recently acquired Picasso bought for \$29.5m is on view at the National Gallery. Sir Cameron Mackintosh is said to be worth about \$200m. Sir Andrew has homes in Berkshire, New York. London, the south of France and Ireland. The success of Cats also allowed the publishers Faher and Faber, which is part of the TS Eliot

and Budapest's, City Theatre - (805), Tonight's worldwide audience likely to be 6,200, given approx 90 per cent

WHAT HAS GONE

INTO IT?

450 microphones (Cats pioneered the

The London show has consumed

31,875 headache pills; 35,625 posters (150,000 square

use of radio microphones; 449,280 throat pilts; 3,900 pairs of shoes; 3,450 costumes for 262 artists;

10,800 make-up sponges; 1,470 batches of each eye shadow,

ipstick, pencil, mascara and blusher

estate, to flourish as a small independent while others have been swallowed up in mergers. "That was probably more significant than a sin-gle note of the musical." said Robert Hewison, the cultural historian.

But the theatrical legacy was to redraw the map of the West End. It was the start of an unprecedented crossover between the pop-ulist, commercial world of musicals and the high-hrow world of subsidised classical theatre. Trevor Nunn, the director of Cats, was the first to make the leap from the Royal Shakespeare Company. He was joined by John Napier, the RSC designer, while Gillian Lynne, the ehoreographer, had a Royal Ballet background.

There isn't any longer a feeling that people who want to he taken seriously shouldn't do that," said Trevor Nunn. "I was fascinated by what do we mean by populists, and how it might be possible to do a work with a hidden underlay, and for a populist audience still to get it. It ems to me it works."

Others now move in and out of populist and classical theatre with ease. Sam Mendes, tipped as the next director of the National Theatre, directed Sir Cameron's production of Oliver, Declan Donnellan of Cheek By Jowl, applauded for its Shakespeare productions, is taking on Martin Guerre, Sit Cameron's latest musical. The legacy of Cats has created a new generation of musical performers, as the demand for singers and dancers

grew with the success of musicals. There are plenty who still turn up their noses at Cats. Its critics deride it as nothing more than shallow entertainment, with no lasting artistic merit. Its supporters, including Raymond Gubbay, who is staging the 100th anniversary production of La Bohème this week at the Royal Albert Hall, believe that in time Sir Andrew may be seen as the Puccini of his day, a composer spurned by the Establishment who was a popular hero.

"There is no doubt songs like 'Memory' will be around for decades and decades to come, Maybe it does offend the snobs, but if it's a beast that touches people's hearts, and it does, why not? It's just a bloody good tune."



Based on 1991 survey the avera audience for modern musical: 34% overseas; 45% rest of UK; 21% London

34% audience came to London specifically to see a show 54% female; 45% under 35; 94% came in couples or groups For first eight years CATS ran without a seat unsold. Book early: the entire house is already sold twice over to an oil company for corporate junket in 1997



Ticket prices: 1981 £3.75-£9.50 1996 £10.50-£30 A £1,000 investment in Cats in 1981 would now be worth £26,500 £1hn: box office gross worldwide £85m: box office gross, London £450,000: original production cost \$300,000: Broadway takings last

200% return for investors in first 10

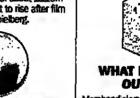
100% return for investors in last five Cats is the foundation on which Really | Hamburg's Operationhaus (1,120)

Useful Theatre Company was built until 1986, when Phantom of the Opera started to become successf t represents 10 per cent o company's income of about £110m last year. That is set to rise after film



THE COUNTRIES

Cats has been cloned around the world. A 32-strong company, with a 16-piece orchestra will perform it onight to each of the New London Theatre, London (capacity 1,102); New York's Winter Garden Theatre part of the US tour taking in 64 cities



its shows now accounts for 5 per cent of Really Useful group's profits of £46m last year. The hit song "Memory" has been played 46,875 times on British television and radio.



Merchandising Cats was the first fully merchandised musical. You can buy badges baseball caps, bookmarks, keyrings, 1'S Eliot's Possum's Book of Cats, posters, T-shirts, watches, cassettes, CDs. Merchandising from



Hezza saves his own life

There was much happiness in Michael Crick's household last week when the Newsnight journalist and author of the criti-



I know what you're up to

cally acclaimed biography of Lord Archer, Stranger than Ficion, received a letter from Michael Heseltine, agreeing to ee Crick, who is embarking on 1 tome of our esteemed Deputy Prime Minister's life to date.

But once Crick had arrived n the Whitehall offices Hezza was straight with him. No, he would not help him because he night want to write his own nemoirs at some point and,

yards, and 11 years, between friends? Let's party.

secondly, he suspected Crick might want to talk about his

time in government (no, really?) and he did not want to.

the premises an entirely

deflated man. "There were two

pluses," he tells me. "The first

is that I met Humphrey the cat,

who snored in a chair in the

waiting room. The second is that I had a good look at

what I could see it is only the

size of half a tennis court.

How to purr

Sir Cameron Mackintosh

knows how to throw a party, as

those who attended the record-

breaking performance of Cats

last night, and quaffed cham-

pagne afterwards, will know. He

also knows how to choose his

Cats in fact overtook A Cho-

rus Line to become the longest

running musical in the West

End or on Broadway last week,

but Sir Cameron was not avail-

able then to celebrate. Also

note the wording, "the West End or Broadway". Had it said London or New York, then 15-

year-old Cats would have been

shown a thing or two by 26-year-old The Fantasticks, still

going strong in New York, just

words and his dates.

However, Crick did not leave

Is Anna a high-flyer?

off Broadway. Still, what's a few

It's always dangerous to give vent to your fantasies in print, as Anna Ford is fast learning. The newscaster and presenter



Aerial performer?

of Radio 4's Today confessed in the Spectator that after seeing the mesmerising Cirque du Soleil at the Royal Albert Hall she wanted to run away to circus school and hecome a trapeze artist. Titillated, the Daily Express enterprisingly offered to fund the project. Now I gather that the

French-Canadian circus troupe

itself has heard of Ms Ford's

officers.

They would even supply the tights. Over to you, Anna. A Wapping great row

if she is up to scratch."

offering her a part in the show.

The climax of the show

involves a spectacular bungee ballet finale, during which beautiful ladies dive in

sequence from trapezes. A cir-

cus spokesman tells me: "We

have seen Anna Ford on tele-

vision and made inquiries

about her. We would be pre-

pared to give her the requisite

training and a spot in the finale

Rupert Murdoch celebrated the 10th birthday of the Wapping dispute by giving his employees there a T-shirt and a clock engraved with the slogan "Ten Years Of Achieve-ment". There was less harmony over the weekend at the alternative celebrations bosted by the London branch of GMPU, the union that represents what is left of the print workers. Showing that old principles and old fends die hard, the London branch's 800-strong party, addressed by Tony Benn, was boycotted by all of GMPU's national

The national office and the London branch failed to agree on tactics 10 years ago and have been disagreeing ever since, Eagle Eye will be presenting them all with a Ten Years Of Argument T-shirt.

New job for Harriet

I overhear an ingenious suggestion being canvassed by a group of Labour MPs in the corridors at Westminster. They say that Tony Blair could have instantly solved the Harriet Harman dilemma by moving her from Health to Northern Ireland. Once ensconced at Stormont, she could continue to send one son to a Catholic grammar school and the other to a Protestant grammar school. Alternatively, she could be very progressive and send both her sous to an integrated school.

None of the aforesaid MPs is hrave enough to put the sug-gestion to Mr Blair. Pity.

HRH Greta

I see the Oxford Union is to debate the motion: "This House Believes that Britain Needs a Personal Privacy Law." It's surprising to see a gov-

ernment minister actually opposing the motion. But Steven Norris, the transport minister, famed for his bus-load of lady friends, is speaking against. The Oxford Union publicises the debate with a picture of Princess Diana and the quote "I want to be alone", attributed to Marlene Dietrich. Garbo, boys and girls, Garbo. Take 100 lines.

Eagle Eye



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These days relatively few people qualify for income support on a mortgage. The ones who do receive nothing for the first two months and then only 50% of their interest payments for the next four months. Even worse than that, if you

took out your mortgage after the 1st October 1995, you won't receive a single penny in support for the first nine months.

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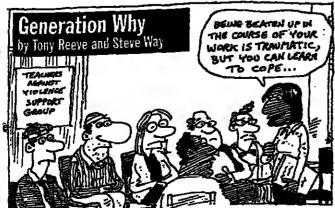
hours a week) for the last 6 months and be between 18-59 years old. General Accident For more Information call us on the number below.

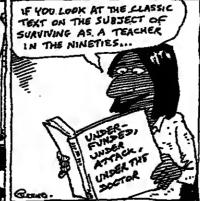
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The law and the stalker

Women around Britain will shudder.
A young mother living in Cambridgeshire, supposedly under police protection, is raped by a stalker who had foltowed her for months. This morning many women will be feeling more vulnerable as a result. The perpetrator, who had previously attacked his victim, is still on the loose a fortnight after the rape.

This case sounds like a horror film designed to describe a world almost beyond the reach of the law, in which the police are powerless to protect people against a known threat. But this is not Hollywood. This is not a crazed fan in pursuit of a star protected by private bodyguards. This is middle England.

The police have said they were "comfortable" with the protection they were giving the woman. They clearly underestimated the viciousness of the man they were dealing with. He followed his victim for four months, sent her letters and left messages on an answerphone which threatened violence and sexual offences. He then raped her in her own home. Even though the man involved has a number of distinctive features and was in the area for a considerable time, the police have yet to

It is too early to judge the way the police dealt with this case. It may have been that there was an operational shortcoming that can he easily corrected. But it is certainly difficult to avoid the conclusion that the seriousness of the threat was not recognised, despite many warning signs. Everyone lives with the remote possibility of random violence. But women understandahly and rightly expect the police to deal with someone who makes them terrified to go

to bed, pick up the telephone or visit the

After this case the police will face an uphill struggle if they are to convince women that they will be supported properly when in danger. It may be that the authorities should consider, in future, offering 24-hour protection in such cases until the stalker has been dealt with. Whatever the details the police should

regently review their procedures.

It is also time to take a careful look at the law covering stalking, an offence of which there is growing awareness. At the moment, a stalker, if charged at all, is likely at worst to face action under the 1986 Public Order Act, which provides a maximum £1,000 fine as punishment for someone found guilty of threatening someone else. Alternatively, a stalker can be bound over to keep the peace or can face a civil injunction restraining him from

repeating his behaviour.

These measures are hardly draconian. They are unlikely to provide adequate or speedy protection for a woman, whose life can become a misery before the law finally steps in. Here is an area in which politisieps in. Here is an area in which point-cians could fruitfully explore the possibil-ities for strengthening the law. There are civil liberties to be weighed up; it would be a mistake to whip up hysteria over a sin-gle case. But calm consideration should be able to generate a specific anti-stalking law along the lines of changes that have already been introduced in California.

This attack occurred in the Prime Minister's constituency of Huntingdon; he would be better off dealing with its worrying implications than trading empty insults, as he did yesterday, with Labour over which party is soft on crime.

We must prepare to get old

the meals on wheels, or the residential nursing home 50 years down the road. About one in five people are likely to need long-term care once they retire. But planning for that eventuality is not high on most people's lists of priorities.

Our population is ageing, the burden of long-term care is growing. According to a report released yesterday by the think-tank IPPR and the economics consultancy London Economics, the number of people in need of long-term care will rise from 2.2 million today, consuming 6.600 hours of care a year, to 3.3 million, needing 9,700 hours in 2031.

The current system is likely to come under increasing strain. At the moment only those with assets worth less than £16,000 are eligible for government sup-port. Everyone else is obliged to fund their own care - and, if necessary, to sell their assets (usually their house) to do so. This year 40,000 people will be forced to sell their houses to pay for care. Relatives expecting to inherit a nest egg are losing out. Conservative backbenchers claim to have post bags full of complaints.

All would be well if everyone decided to take out insurance to finance their care, should they need it. The trouble is that most people cannot afford to do so or will not. Given a choice, most people would prefer to spend their current income rather than put it by to guard against a risk at some distant point in the future. So a voluntary insurance system is full of pitfalls. Yet expecting the taxpayers of 2031 work on them soon.

Ididn't watch the first episode of The House, the BBC's behind-the-

scenes look at what really goes on at

the Royal Opera House. I had imag-

ined that it would be about opera. a

dead art form I am, sadly, congeni-

However, it was clear listening to

my friends in the next seven days that

I had not missed a programe about

opera. I had missed the best thing since Faulty Towers. Now, I am prob-

ably alone in the civilised world in

not having seen Fawlty Towers, but

you don't actually have to have seen

Fawlty Towers to know all about it -

you only have to be present at con-

versations where Basil Fawlty is

rerun by those present. Where two

or three are gathered together, saith

the Good Book, then one of them

shall say "Don't mention the war!"

and another shall say, "Meester

Fawlty" in a mock Spanish accent,

and behold everyone shall fall

around laughing.
Thus it is that although I have

never seen these episodes, I know all

about the visit of the health inspec-

tor, and the discovery of the dead

body, and the one where Basil gets

a meal in from a local restaurant,

because I have pieced them together

from re-enactments by friends. And

that is how I recognised that this new

tally unable to enjoy.

Hew fit and healthy young people spare to fork out for the steeply rising costs of

ingly unfair.
So this is the trap that we are in: we expect government to make sure the supply of long-term care will rise to meet demand and yet we baulk at the prospect of paying more taxes. There are two escape routes. The first would be a sweeping reform to introduce compulsory insurance for long-term care for everyone. It does not matter whether this is administered by the state or the private sector. The purpose would be to make the current working generation save for their future likely needs. The size of the insurance premium would depend on ability to pay; the state would step in to build up credits for the unemployed. It would not be a tax; it

would be saved to pay for future care. The second approach would be to encourage the creation of a new private insurance market for those with assets, who could pledge a portion of those assets to fund an insurance policy for their old age. The state would continue to provide for

those who cannot afford their own care. Whatever the details of policy, the fact is that as a society we will have to devote more resources in the next 40 to 50 years to caring for the elderly and ill. The state cannot afford to stand by and just hope people will provide for themselves, but any intervention would be extremely politically sensitive. We need new and imaginative schemes, of the kind outlined by the IPPR, to bring together the publie and the private - and we need to start

MILES KINGTON

thing called The House was a true

descendant of Fawlty Towers, be-

cause people were talking about it

in the same do-you-remember that-

hit-where-that-awful-woman sort of

bit where this woman who is playing

Carmen at short notice is told they

can't give her any free tickets for her

family? Oh, God, do you remember

that bit where the marketing bloke,

or is it the other one, starts throwing

phones about in his fury? Oh, God,

do you remember that bit where

Jeremy Isaacs makes a prat of him-

And this was just after the first

episode, which gave me time to recant and join in. If it were not a

programme about opera but a new

sitcom, then obviously it was worth

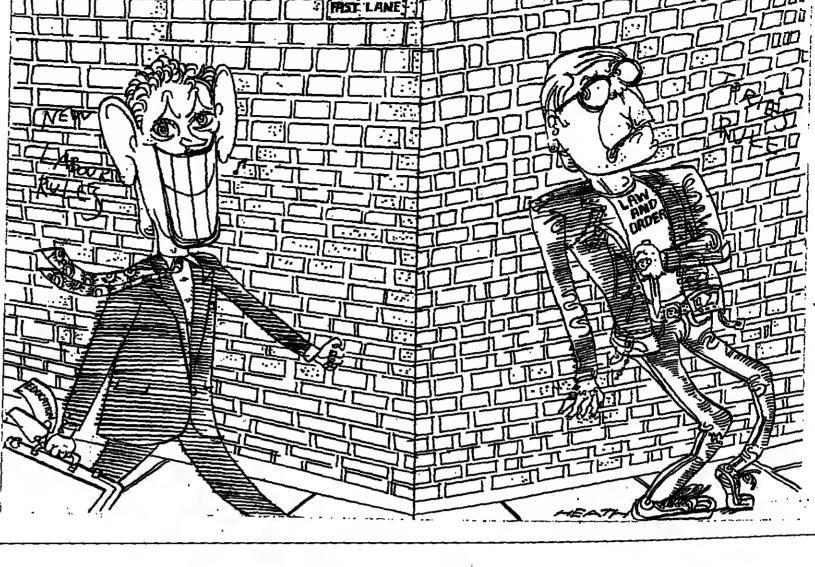
watching. And I watched, and peo-

ple were right. It was a very funny

self in front of the board ...?

Oh, God, do you remember that

Man about the House – a zany new sitcom



• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Romance plays little part in the lives of most child brides

From Ms Sue Rose

Sir: You suggest (leading article: "Sad tale of a modern-day Juliet", 25 January) that child marriages are OK on the grounds that in some places they are popular and culturally acceptable.

In male-dominated societies child marriages do not exist out of any sympathy for the romantic ambitions of 13-year-old girls. They exist to pander to the sexual tastes of men and to ensure that girls have little opportunity to develop independent lives and, instead, remain under the control of men. One thing the average child wife does not have, as a rule, is the support and protection to "flee" when things go

It is sad that, in your attempts to prove your cultural tolerance, you end up supporting a practice which is killing and hurting large numbers of girls worldwide. Cul-tural practices in all their many forms that specifically discriminate against females kill more women and girls around the world than any other single cause.

Yours faithfully. SUE ROSE London, SW11 26 January

From Ms Joan Higman Davies Sir: The marriage of 13-year-old Sarah Cook should not shock us: the marriage of female children

Medical litigation

From Dr Anthony Barton Sir: Lord Woolf's inquiry Access

to Justice now turns to the diffi-

Most medical and drug claims

are legally aided. The Legal Aid

Board usually relies on the advice of plaintiff lawyers in

deciding whether to fund a

claim. Such advice is not inde-

pendent, as the lawyers have a

pecuniary interest in advancing the case. The success rate of

medical claims is only 12 per

cent (according to the Board)

and negligible for drug claims.

programme. The plot was unbeliev-

able, of course. In real life an opera

house would not make the crass mis-

take of hiring the same designer to

design two productions opening at

about the same time. In real life they

wouldn't make their leading dancer

do a dress rehearsal on a floor so

slippy that she kept falling over, nor

would she in real life be called

Darcey Bussell, In real life they

wouldn't spend thousands of pounds

just getting two shire horses on stage

"Oh. yes, they would," I was told by a friend who had worked in

opera for a year or two before

returning to theatre production.

Things like this are always hap-

pening. The reason that such things

happen is that opera is a crazy

world and the people tend to become the same. Opera is fantasy,

so their lives become fantasy as

well, or at least they come to apply different standards of logic to life.

Jeremy Isaacs really, genuinely

believed that a fly-on-the-wall

documentary would do the Royal

Opera House a favour. He told

Melvyn Bragg so on Radio 4. He

told him it would show the public

how they are now balancing the

books and getting their money's

worth. As the programmes are

for a Janacek opera ...

culties of medical litigation.

and legal aid

is still a commonplace in many parts of the world.

Despite a century of missionary schooling, despite contact with the West and Western ideas, small girls generally remain outside human rights considerations.

The marriage of seven- or eight-year-olds is actually on the increase in east Africa - sleeping with a virgin is believed to cure Aids; and 10- to 11-year-olds cannot be guaranteed to be "pure" enough. The marriage of nine- to 10-year-old girls is also on the increase in Pakistan, partly as a result of a backlash to foreign criticisms of Muslim practice. The International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994 was told that half a million women a year die as the result of complications of pregnancy and childbirth: what was

these mothers are only children 26 January themselves Sarah Cook is a lucky girl to arouse so much concern: but then she is British, and white. Yours sincerely. JOAN HIGMAN DAVIES Upton-upon-Severn Worcestershire

25 January The writer is a member of Anti-Slavery International.

From Ms D. V. Baird Sir: I cannot see any useful pursame time, this reaction lays us pose being served by bringing

to speculate with public funds in

the name of justice to such little

benefit for patients, and with

apparently scant regard for the merits of the case or the qual-

funds are diverted from medical

care to irrecoverable legal costs.

Too often lawyers are the only

based on independent advice if

medical litigation is not to be a

self-serving industry for lawyers at the expense of patients.

showing the exact opposite this sug-

gests either that Isaacs is round the bend or working in a world where

"I'll tell you a story," my friend continued. I briefly worked with the

Belfast Opera for a season. Now,

although the soloists are all profes-

sional over there, the chorus is com-

posed of amateurs. One of the keen-

est amateur singers is, or was then,

a local judge. Every time he featured in a production, he had to be accom-

panied by at least two hodyguards

wherever he went, including on

stage, so the bodyguards also had to

put on operatic costume and go out

in the chorus with him, to make sure

he was not shot at. At all times there

were two fully armed security men in

the chorus, dressed in 18th-century

costume, hristling with guns and unable to sing. Still, the judge's

friends, as we called them, did learn

the words and mouthed them along

any other branch of the performing

arts where such a crazy situation

could be thought passably normal

and where the inmates come to think

of their fantasy world as the real

I couldn't. Apart from the House

"Now, I challenge you to think of

with the others ...

of Commons, of course.

world."

normal rules do not apply.

The grant of legal aid must be

beneficiaries.

Yours faithfully,

London, N1

ANTHONY BARTON

of representation. Scarce

Sarah Cook hack to England, unless she wishes it.

She seems happy and wellcared for among her "Turkish inlaws" and might as well remain there for the present. There used to be a tradition of betrothed brides going to live with their future in-laws, to learn the skills of managing a household and to

be educate Sarah might use her time learning the language and customs of her adopted country and perhaps continuing with some kind of formal education. Knowledge is never wasted and if, in time, she and Musa can marry properly, so much the better. If they decide to part, nothing will have been lost, she will still be young enough to follow another path. Yours etc.

D. V. BARD not pointed out was that many of Eastbourne, East Sussex

> From Mr Michael Johnson Sir: Sarah Cook is already caught in a conflict between Turkish state law, which does not permit her "marriage", and Islamic taw which apparently does. The position is similar in the UK, where the minimum age for marriage is imposed for social and civil reasons, not because of dogma: the Christian churches accepted child marriages for centuries. At the

because under-age sex and preg-nancies happen here and we tol-erate them while still forbidding

marriage before 16. There is a real risk of letting this rather pathetic case balloon into a clash of cultures, in which the arguments would not all be on the British side. The backwash could seriously weaken our credibility when with other governments we take a moral position in pressing Turkey on fundamental human rights issues. It could also further damage under-

ern Europe, including Britain. None of that would help Sarah.

If she were in the UK, the case would be handled according to UK law and policy. As she is in Turkey she should be allowed to await the decision of the courts and, as she grows up, to decide with her family what to do.

standing between Islam and west-

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL JOHNSON London, N6 28 January

From Mrs V. A. Dunton Sir The Turkish mayor who is supporting 13-year-old Sarah Cook's marriage to a waiter says girls mature earlier in the desert".

Have you been to Braintree? Yours faithfully, V. A. DUNTON

Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire 29 January

From Mr Bill Jordan

Sir: You carried the news of a

Your article described Has-

Legal aid encourages lawyers | Passing toy costs down the line

open to the charge of hypocrisy,

proposed take-over of Hasbro, maker of Sindy and Cahbage Patch dolls, by Mattel, producer of Barbie dolls ("Barbie eyes up Action Man in Toytown battle' 26 January). How would this possible take-over affect those who work for these two firms? It is no secret that most of their toys are made in factories in China and Thailand, which compete fiercely to win production contracts from the large brand-name

toy companies.

hro's chairman, Alan Hassen-feld, admitting that he has to be more "aggressive". We hope that this aggression does not fall on the tens of thousands of workers in China and other Asian countries who work for Hasbro's and

Mattel's sub-contractors.
At least 250 Asian toy workers have been killed in the last four years - 90 per cent of them women, and many of them child labourers. It was in a Thai factory which made Hasbro's Cabbage Patch dolls that the world's worst factory fire occurred, in which 188 people were burnt alive, in

What is needed is a new global code of conduct signed by toy manufacturers - and Mattel and Hasbro as the world leaders could show the way - to ensure that contracts drawn up with sub-contractors include sections which deal with workers' rights. Yours sincerely.

BILL JORDAN General Secretary International Confederation of Free Trade Unions

26 January

Prison staff pay

From Mr Mark Leech

Sir: The announcement that the prison service is to cut the number of prison officers by almost 3,000 will have a profound effect on control inside our penal system, but a more effective solution to the problem of overstaffing is

The working practices of the English prison service have long since been the dictate of the Prison Officers Association. Despite the fact that less than 20 per cent of prison officers actually work with prisoners in the cell blocks, all officers earn exactly the same amount (circa £18,000), dependent not so much on their responsibility as length of service. Paying for all these officers, when only a small proportion actually

From Ms Bridget Clarke iam forte (or even Granada). do the essential work, is at the root of the massive problem of

A year ago the Scottish Prison Service tackled this problem by introducing a radical restructuring that placed prison officers into e of five pay bands: those in the cell blocks who took the most risks received the most money. while those, for example, who manned the prison gate received a lesser amount - meaning a

MARK LEECH

25 January

The Prisoners' Handbook Bristol

Sic transit Brutus

Sir: With reference to the Rev Andrew McLuskey's Latin tag (letter, 26 January), I understand it was Brutus who adsum

£5,000 per annum cut in pay. Had Michael Howard adopted this approach, there would be no need for these inept cuts in prison staff Yours sincerely,

Caesar aderatl Brutus was then sic in omnibus, while Caesar sic

Yours faithfully, BRIDGET CLARKE Banham, Nortolk 26 January

Fast track, but to where?

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From Professor Joan Freeman Sir. Acceleration or fast tracking (to use the American term) of bright children in schools ("Blair fast track scheme for schools", 29 January) is rare in continental Europe, where the academic success of the children does not appear to have suffered.

Acceleration is often a sad move for the children. European research shows they lose the companionship of their own age group. feel themselves to be undersized, are not as frequently picked for the

sports team, and so on. Acceleration is just what it says, speedier learning, without time to round out understanding or to experiment with different approaches. It is a sticking plaster

to cover up for a poor basic system. Our children deserve better. Yours faithfully, JOAN FREEMAN London, W1 29 January From Mr R. G. Skilling

Six: Scots soldiers serving in Northern Ireland are glad their children are educated there or in Scotland and not in England. Why can Scots and Irish educate children when England, apparently, cannot? Yours R. G. SKILLING

Guildford, Surrey

Eminent 'friends' of the criminal

From Mr John Morgan

Sir: Michael Howard accuses the Labour Party of being the crimi-nal's friend because it failed to support Government measures to increase police stop and search powers and remove a suspect's right to silence. These measures specifically contravene the Fourth and Fifth Amendments of the US constitution, which form part of the US Bill of Rights. They are perceived as being fundamental human rights and any American politician seeking to restrict them would be committing political suicide. Does Mr Howard therefore think that all American presidents and Sunday dents and Supreme Court justices for the last 200 years, including Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoin and even Ronald Reagan, were "criminals' friends"? Yours faithfully, JOHN MORGAN London, SW18 29 January

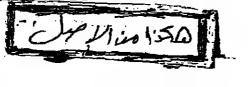
Rigorous refunds

From Mr Jain MacLaren

Sir: Can I assure Peter Castle (letter, 29 January) that the inland Revenue will deal with any repayments due to his clients in the same rigorous manner. I recently received a letter regarding an overpayment of tax which had accrued lp of repayment interest. The amount overpaid, of 3p, has been allocated to our account, and I am to be contacted about the interest in the near future. Yours faithfully, IAIN MACLAREN Honorary Treasurer Thames Tradesmen's

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Far: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@ independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Rowing Club London, W4



An investment

in our future

It's low, it's dirty, and it's personal

Politicians deplore abusive soundbites – then put the boot in. It will be a very negative election campaign

Here is an early sketch of a planned Labour Party broadcast. A line of enormous pigs are seen in gory close-up, messily feeding. The image is inter-cut with footage of Conservative MPs in the House of Commons. MP - snout - MP - snout - MP s soundhite - pig's grunt - soundbite - staver. A well-known actor's voice intones: "This has been the greediest, sleaziest Government in modern British history...

Here's another rough cut. John Major is shown in action during the last election campaign, making his now-notorious promises on taxation and the economy. "A serial liar - catch him before he strikes again "snaris the voice. Or another: clips of Asil Nadir. Ociav Botoar and Kamlesh Pattni, all of them past Tory donors and "wanted for questioning", and then of Nazmu Virani, jailed in 1994. "Which party is really the villain's friend?" sneers the voice. "Which party pocketed their cash?" All right, I made them up. I have no

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idea if there are Labour-supporting copy-writers working on these or sim-

ilar lines in some Soho ad agency.

My point is only that the Conservatives ought to be careful about the kind of personalised attacks being launched against Labour, however tempting they may he. A certain mutual restraint is the foundation of respectable politics. The Central Office billboard campaign against Harriet Harman was probably irre-sistible: Michael Heseltine's assertion that Labour is "traditionally on the side of the villain" should have been resisted. If I am concerned about the Government's legislation on asylumseekers, does that make me the mugger's mate? Apparently it does.

Conservative strategists will retort that they are only using the gap between Labour actions and rhetoric to point up poticy failures, a tegitimate lactic. A traditional onc, also; attack on left-wing leaders for their hypocrisy are as old as progressive politics.
Fox. Gladstone, Lloyd George, Witson – all would have failed the Central Office "do as I say, not as I do" test. All were far grander in their private agreements of the private agreement of the private agreemen

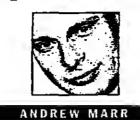
vate appetites than in some, at least, of their demagoguery.

Labour could equally well argue that by reminding voters of the misbehaviour of individual Tory MPs and of past embarrassments over party funding, they were "really" exposing what happens when one party has been in power for too long. They may also consider that the public, faced with the crimes of sending a boy to a grammar school or, atternatively, mis-leading them about their taxes, may

regard the latter as worse. But the problem is the tone of the attacks, not the content, and politicians know this as well as the rest of us. Everyone can spot the slither into the slime pit. When Michael Howard tries to smear Labour as pro-crime and Labour attacks him as a cynical racist. both sides know what they're doing. And the frustrating thing is that the

crudest, most hitter attacks really are a diversion. There are vital gaps and political failures to be attacked and highly effective ways of attacking them that don't involve nastiness.

For instance, the best Tory response to Labour's problems over selective schools is to try to jemmy apart the inconsistencies in Opposition policy



Everyone can spot

the slither into the slime pit

themselves. This they will certainly try to do. Ministers and advisers are already preparing a switch in policy on schooling, so that pupil selection will be openly embraced and defended. rather than being sneaked into the state system, as now.

Some members of the Cahinet would like to bring in selection with vouchers too, but John Major is still uncommitted. A likelier outcome is that the Tories will use their election manifesto to propose an extension of selection along with the expansion of grant-maintained schools. There would be no return in the II-plus exam but there would be a promise of new grammar schools and new specialist schools in a more diverse system.

If the polls are anything to go by, the electoral impact would be favourable: a Harris poll for the Daily Telegraph earlier this month found 54 per cent in favour of a return to full selection.

countries. But such a shift would also put pressure on Labour's logic. The party believes in streaming and setting inside schools, dividing children by classroom. How different in principle is this kind of selection from having different schools? That is the kind of hard-edged political attack a confident Conservative Party would be relying on, rather than the somewhat petty

tone of the anti-Harman campaign. In a similar way, the Labour Party has a whole ammunition depot of dev-astating material 10 use against the Conservative tax record without stooping to calling Major a liar. Personal or abusive campaigning is bad for all politicians because most voters tisten to it and believe both sides; they agree that Labour are hypocrites and that the Tories are sleazy. Their disgust is general to the activity, not spe-

cific to one party or another. Here, though, we come to the final layer of political double-think. Most politicians would, if asked, agree with almost everything in this column. In private, even the most senior people deplore the rise of abusive soundbites, profess to be despairing about the level of exchanges in Prime Minister's question-time and say they are deeply worried about the public's cynical dismissal of democratic politics.

But then they go out and start kneeing one another in the privates, returning desperately to the vituper-ation like alcoholics going back to the bottle. They say they abhor recent developments in American politics, where "negative campaigning" reigns unchallenged, and millions are spent on hilious attacks on the opponent's

motives. But every indication is that the 1996-97 campaign in Britain will be similar and designed to be similar: the main parties are even sending their apparatchiks off to Washington to watch and to learn how it's done.

Why? It seems the whole self-regarding crew who have tried to make demo-cratic politics into a pseudo-science have finally cowed the politicians. Ministers and shadow ministers regard the ad-gurus, the pollsters, the spin-philosophers and the campaign strate-gists, particularly if they are American, or have once met some Americans. with awe. Some of these political par-asites have damaged the reputation of democracy, shallowed debate and produced horrible own-goals. I think a few fresh-sounding arguments from politicians, delivered in clear English, would be vasily more effective. But in our scientific age, these people are now regarded as gods.

Or at least as experts, which is better. Few politicians care nearly as much for the reputation of politics as they do about defeating the other lot. If they are told negative campaigning works, they will giggle and assent to stuff which would make them, as pri-

vate citizens, deeply uneasy.

I prefer to end such columns oo an optimistic note. But on this subject it is impossible to be jaunty: first indications are that we are in for a filthy, degrading campaign. If the party leaders go that way and then, when it's over, complain about the dangerous cynicism infecting our democracy, then we should treat their protestations with contempt. That would he one act of collective hypocrisy too far.

and control, there is consensus that diversity can go hand in hand with high standards. Sadly, her hope that this marks the end of ideological conflict in education is likely to prove illusory. But her contention that the debate must now be about practicalities -

and lots of second chances.

We all now seem agreed on

one thing: education is going to

be central to the next election. Given last week's angry partia-mentary exchanges, this may

seem something of a mixed hlessing. But underneath the

bombasi and htuster of the

party political dogfight, quite a lot of consensus is emerging.

the importance of education for

Britain's future economic suc-

cess and social cohesion – and for a liberal society in which no

one is enslaved by poverty,

ignorance or conformity.
There is acceptance of the crucial role of pre-school edu-

cation, the idea of life-long

learning, the importance of the

Dr Christina Townsend, the chief executive of BTEC, the

vocational qualifications coun-

cil, made the point in a recent

article that after the battles of

the Sixties, there is a broad con-

sensus that basic skills go hand

in hand with creativity. And

after the battles of the Eighties

and early Ninetics over structure

information revolution.

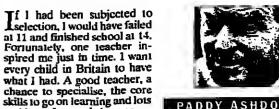
There is wide agreement on

"how best to deliver what we all agree needs to he delivered" must surely be correct. Any programme to raise standards in schools will need three strands, First, better backup and support for schools after inspections - after all, you don't get fitter just by weighing yourself. Second. more involvement of parents in their children's education, hased on new parent-school agreements - which I first advocated eight years ago. And third, higher teaching standards. That doesn't just mean

isolating bad teaching. It means giving incentives - such as sab-

baticals - to good teachers. But the biggest challenge is to create a truly effective structure for life-long learning. Education remains a one-chance event for too many in Britain - and qualwe need pre-school education for all children from the age of three. Everyone is agreed on its the commitment, the changes value. But without the money to and the investment to give make it happen, "valuing pre-school education", like every other good educational intention, is meaningless waffle. In the classroom, we should

he using information technol- Democrats.



ogy to help children learn at the pace which suits them. Multi-media integrated tearning systems can enthuse the hrightest and encourage the weakest with arguably far more impact than old-fashioned accelerated tearning schemes.

In secondary school everpupil should have the chance timap out their own curriculapath. We mustn't confuse selection with specialisation. School should be encouraged to develop in their own distinctive ways, forging partnerships with other schools, including school in the private sector, to help individual students to pursue

their own chosen paths. Finally, beyond 14, we should be reshaping the whole curricu-lum structure, breaking down

Education is a one-chance event for too many

the divide between "academic" and "vocational", higher and further education; transforming narrow A-levels into a broad based, modular curriculum like the international baccalaureate: making degrees credit-based: ali providing a framework for lifelong learning in which everyone is guaranteed a period of education or training at a time of

their choice in adult life. This is a radical agenda, And it will cost money. We propose an extra £2bn ~ raised, if necessary, with an extra penny on income tax - dedicated solely to funding pre-school education from three, to put right some of the damage done by school cuts, and to boost post-school education and training. I am not talking about a single budget of extra cash but a decade

of investment in education. Deep down, underneath the blood and thunder of the political slanging match, everyone knows that is what needs to he done. Is our confrontational political debate really going to stop it coming to the surface?

There is a duty on everyone education to seize this opportunity and make sure we make Britain an education system that will guarantee our future in the next century.

The writer is leader of the Libera:

and offer something more coherent as in most of Britain's competitor morals, record, intelligence and Behind the Sara Keays row lies the question: is it acceptable to subject a child to media scrutiny?

Glare that marks for life

Sara Keays, Lord Parkinson, the High Court and Brian Sedgemore MP have succeeded in creating an extraordinary tangle of legal harbed wire. Keays wants publicity for her handicapped daughter and her treatment. Parkinson, the father, does not and has the backing of the High Court that such publicity would not be in the child's interest. And Sedgemore, under protection of parliamentary privilege, has named the parties in a Commons motion backing Keays. Yesterday the media and lawyers were showing signs of hyperventilation when discussing the issue.

But what, beyond legal wrangles, is the issue? In essence it is this: how can children be used and who decides? In personality may be as important as general principles. But I cannot, under all this harbed wire, discuss them here, so I must stick to generalities.

The case has much in common with that of Jaymee Bowen. Known for a long time as "Child B", Bowen was refused NHS treatment for leukacmia. Legally she could not be named. But her father obtained private treatment and wished to pay for it by selling her story to the Daily Mirror. The Mirror would only do the story if Child B could be identified and, eventually, the courts agreed on the basis that the treatment, which might be life-saving, must constitute a greater good for the

But the belief that children ought to be protected from publicity is clearly well-founded. Publicity is a kind of absolute. It places you perpetually on the files of the media and, potentially, for the rest of your life it makes you recognisable. Like innocence, complete privacy once lost cannot be regained. In fact, the High Court injunction protecting the Keays child is known as a Mary Bell order. Bell, as an 11-year-old, killed two children in 1968. She now lives under a new identity, to protect her from her own childhood notoriety - a clear example of the

permanence of a media "baptism". Rightly, therefore, we assume that children should not be exposed. Children might not agree; most are daz-zled by the idea of any kind of fame. But then many children probably want to drink, smoke. gamble or have sex. Publicity is like all of those things: habit-forming and life-changing. They all require a reasonably mature mind to grasp their implications. Making a child famous. as Michael Jackson

should testify, is risky. Pop fame, in general, is seen as good. Most parents, perhaps foolishly, would not resist. Legal or inti-mate fame or notoriety is different. In most of these cases the courts and parents would agree: protect the child. The memory of some celchrated case

park today.



BRYAN APPLEYARD

or scandal should not be allowed to taint the whole of a life.

But in both the Keays and the Bowen cases, courts and parents have been at odds. The courts have applied the ideal of privacy, one parent in each case has wanted publicity. Their argument has been that, in these unusual indisputable good - it would help money to be raised for a desirable end or it would provide support for a worthy cause. So two apparent virtues collide: the protection of the child and the raising of money for beneficial medical treatment; the state's ideals ver-

sus those of the parents.

This notion of publicity as an absolute good is, in fact, central to our culture - as central, in its way, as our belief that children require protection.

Like innocence. complete privacy once lost cannot be regained

It is based on the democratic assumption that informing the people is intrinsically better than keeping them in ignorance and it is, to a greater or lesser extent, built into almost every type of institution. At its best it gen-uinely helps us to make informed decisions; at its worst it justifies the crud-est exploitation. The nuts 'n' sluts shows on American television, in which victims are persuaded to reveal their most intimate lives, can claim that it is both psychologically healthy to reveal yourself and democratically desirable. The wrecked family, drunk on the momentary fame of television, can, in a sufficiently crazed democratic society, be made to seem as signif-

icant as the Watergate investigation. The problem is that claims for the benefits of publicity can become very tenuous indeed. Obviously neither democracy nor human well-being is really served by the mad confessions on these television shows. But what about those cases on the evening news bulletins where police parade parents of missing children, often in

tears, before the media? These events are taken to be good

things either because they might help find the child or because they will provide a warning for other parents. They are intended to use the emotions aroused by a child lost or perhaps in distress to achieve a specific end. The parents have decided to use the missing child and their own emotions to earn the co-operation of the media.

The media interest is clearly in the drama, the sensation, and the police would claim to be exploiting this interest for reasonable ends. The routine, however, has taken over, the event has become a convention, the appeal for help or the warning has become secondary, almost unnoticeable.

Sara Keays and Jaymee Bowen's father wished to break the legal proinite reason. In both cases the claim is very clear: specific medical benefits will ensue from the publicity. They, as parents, have decided that these ben-

efits outweigh the benefits of privacy. This must be a subjective judgement. However calculable the benefits will be. nobody knows what price the children will pay for being famous. In addition. however honourable the motives in these cases, other parents might have less respectable reasons. They might expect to make money out of their child's fame, they may wish to settle some score, they may, like the nuts 'n' sluts, fancy the idea of being famous.

All of which is to say that there must be a strong public interest in the uses to which children are put, even when those uses appear to be obviously vir-tuous. The legal principle of parens patriae - which means that the state has a parental role towards its citizens - is a good one, even if it seems to conflict with the demands of liberty. Bizarre as it may sound, we are all, to some degree, children of the state.

In fact, this principle is more impor-tant than ever, to balance the increasing demands of publicity. Even the most libertarian observer must acknowledge that the extremes of media intrusion go far beyond the democratic right to know. This is bad enough when some adult is persecuted, intolerable when a child is involved. Inevitably the lines are finely drawn.

Children cannot be utterly protected and parents cannot be completely free to use them as they like. I don't know what justice in the Keays case would be, I'm not sure anybody does. But it is clear that this is the latest twist in a private story defined at every stage by the demands of sensational publicity. It dramatises the extraordinary power of the media to raise the stakes, to add new and often frightening dimensions to perennial human predicaments. We live in a world that great forces wish to make transparent: all the more reason, therefore, to protect the possibility of opacity.



Sara Keays wants publicity for her daughter; the High Court maintains it would not be In the child's interest Photograph: Tom Pilston

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Take good care in the park

Yesterday's announcement by the Heritage Lottery Fund of an ambitious funding programme for urban parks is timely and welcome. Parks are uniquely valued parts of our urban landscape and, in spite of serious natterns of decline more than 8 crowding and promiscuous social It is this difference between then ous patterns of decline, more than 8 million people will visit their local

and now that raises potential prob-lems for the best use of lottery money. The lottery guidelines naturally em-It is the social role that parks play in urban communities that is perhaps phasise heritage, conservation and restoration themes; and hecause it is capital money, there is a consequent emphasis on landscapes, artefacts, the refurbishment of original buildtheir most important contemporary function - as a realm of freedom in an otherwise expensive and regulated world. In this there are significant differences from the era in which the ings, appropriate Victorian fixtures great Victorian town parks were and fittings and so on. But the dandeveloped. They were established to gers of it becoming a "new parkrailings fund" must be avoided. There provide an escape from disease, over-

Ken Worpole

is already ample evidence that large sums of money spent on restoring original huldings without a pro-gramme of community consultation, development and involvement, will end in tears, as restored features are

vandalised or hurnt out again. Applicants should apply some of their hardest thinking to the questions of a continuum of contested public spaces in British towns and cities today, and problems of safety are simply addressed by the solution: more CCTV cameras, please. This will not do, even though at least one park in the North-east now has CCTV cameras and floodlights operating a dawnto-dusk security regime among the play equipment and floral borders.

Elsewhere, parks managers are attempting to "crowd out crime" through events, encouraging more people back into parks, providing pro-

grammed activities and decent toilets, cafés and well designed play areas. To he fair, the "heritage" guidelines display a sensitivity to these pressing social issues. But they also need to consider the unique role that parks now play as "public goods" in debates about urban environmental sustainability, hringing together ecological, social and cultural concerns in the one place. Will lottery funding not only allow parks to respect the past hut also, and perhaps more importantly, anticipate a more sustainable

The writer was one of the authors of the Comedia/Demos report 'Park Life: urban parks and social renewal'.

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Granada stalked Pearson with offer worth £5bn

MATHEW HORSMAN Media Editor

Granada spent seven months last year stalking Pearson, the media and financial services company, but abandoned a potential bid when it emerged that the Cowdray family would not accept an offer of up to £9 a share.

It is believed that Granada, which last week woo a two-month battle for Forte, the botels and restaurants concern, was preparing a break-up bid to secure Pearson's range of me-dia assets, which include Thames Television, the independent television production company, and Grundy Worldwide, makers of the soap. Neighbours.

At £9 a share, Pearson would be worth just over £5bn. The Cowdray family, with Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank controlled by Pearsoo, whose chairman is Lord Blakenham, own 21 per cent of the group-making a hostile bid hard to win. Neither Granada nor Pearson but only at a maximium price of

source said the management team was tied up in preparations for the takeover of Forte, and deep in negotiations to sell parts of the hotels empire.

Meanwhile, Marriott, the US hotels group mentioned as a possible buyer for some of the Forte properties, yesterday said it had turned down an offer from Granada for an asset swap involving Forte's Meridien and

Granada's interest in Pearson has long been rumoured in the market. But analysts said most potential bidders would be put off by the family stake.
This is a very difficult com-

pany to take over, as others have already discovered," a Pearsoo insider said. "Even Rupert Murdoch couldn't do it with 20 per ceot in his pocket."

Mr Murdoch made a run at the company in the late 1980s, eventually building a 20 per cent stake he later sold at a profit. Analysts said a bid would have made sense for Granada

would comment. A Granada £9, which Hendersoo Crosthwaite has calculated to be the maximum break-up value of the group. Pearson shares closed at 650p last night, toward the high end of analysis' trading ranges. It is believed the share price already includes a marginal bid

> Granada's interest came as little surprise to media analysts, who pointed out that Pearson has long had a reputation for sleepy management, and has only re-cently moved to reduce back-office costs following a two-year strategic shift from luxury goods and services to media.

"Some of what they are doing now is clearly aimed at beading off a potential bid," said

one leading media analyst. There has also been specu lation that Pearson and MAL the financial services and me dia group headed by Lord Hollick, could merge their financial operations, in a move to pre-empt any break-up bid of either company. The two are partners in the new Channel 5 service.



Keeping it in the family: Lord Blakenham, chairman of Pearson, which analysts say could present a difficult takeover target Photograph: Herbie Knott

December to paint a downbeat stake in BSkyB, the satellite picture of current trading. City bouses consequeotly lowered their estimates for 1995 to about £240m, oot counting a the new Channel S service. one-off gain of £466m from the Pearson called in analysts in sale of Pearson's 14 per ceot

broadcaster. It also announced it would incur £32m in additional restructuring costs, following changes to back-office

"They spent a fortune oo

management consultants to cut a few costs," said one analyst. Most companies would have taken these charges long ago." Analysts have been generally

The company's three main lines of business will report to three senior executives. David Bell, former chief executive of the Financial Times Group, will be responsible for information. Greg Dyke, former bead of LWT and

rationale for the acquisition

chief executive of Pearson Television, will have primary re-sponsibility at board level for films and entertainmeot. David Veit, formerly assistant managing director, will handle other

Westdeutsche Landesbank buys Panmure

JOHN EISENHAMMER Financial Editor

Westdeutsche Landesbank yesterday became the latest German giant to make an important investment banking push in the City, with the purchase of the broker Panmure Gordon from NationsBank of European strategy, ours is much the US. The purchase price was more North American," said not disclosed, but is believed to he around £35m. Richard Roddey, bead of NationsBank Europe.

Panmure Gordon has been bought to plug the equities gap, which is the main weakness in WestLB's plans to build up a global investment banking presence through its Londonbased unit, West Merchant

"This is an important huilding block on which we hope to expand our European equities activities as well as looking to increasing in emerg-ing markets," said Patrick Macdougall, chief executive of West Merchant Bank.

the German banks, was the first to target London as the said. base for its ambitions to become one of the world's teading investment banks by the eod of the decade, centered on Deutsche Morgan Grenfell. Over the past year it has been hiring aggressively, notably expanding its securities business. Dresdner, Germany's number two, quickly followed suit, buying Kleinwort Benson last sum-

mer for £1bn. WestLB, a public sector bank with total assets of £280bn,

build its global business around West Merchant Bank in

Loodoo. It first approached Nations-Bank last summer. "They convinced us that Panmure Gordon's capabilities fit more into their long-term strategy than into our own. Theirs is a

There was speculation last night that Nationsbank, which is the third-largest in the US, was getting out of Panmure because the broking house complicated a separate acquisition plan that was more in line with its strategy. Mr Roddey said the disposal of Panmure "has no implications for Gartmore", the UK fund manager which has been put up for sale by its French parent, Banque Indosuez, and which has a joint venture agreement with Na-tionsBank. "We will continue to Deutsche Bank, the biggest of build our capital markets busine German banks, was the oess in Loodon," Mr Roddey

> West Merchant Bank is about to start up its derivatives husi-October in Loodon and New York from Deutsche Morgan

It is also expected to announce shortly a senior indi-vidual biring in the fixed-income business. The main priority with Panmure ropean equities capability, and in particular business between made plain last year its plans to Britain and Germany.

Persimmon's agreement on Ideal under bid threat

MAGNUS GRIMOND

An auction for Trafalgar House's Ideal Homes subsidiary could begin in the next few days despite last night's agreement by the house-builder Persimmoo to pay £170m for the business

The deal, to be partially paid for through a £91m cash call, tops the £160m which the rival Beazer Homes is thought to have been prepared to bid. But Beazer said yesterday it was "keeping its options open" after previously claiming it had been excluded by Trafalgar from oegotiations to sell the business. value of tax tesses being sold a recal, which degan after India gar's preliminary results were published on 15 December. A number of parties, not including beazer, were invited to

the York-based Persimmoo the UK's fourth-biggest housebuilder, must be cleared by Trafalgar shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting on February 22. One option still open to Beazer would be an approach to the group's main shareholders to get them to overturn yesterday's agreement. Beazer said it was "evaluatiog

Its decision could turn on the value of tax losses being sold

The deal, which would make might be prepared to add them to its original bid, thought to have been around £160m. John Watkins, a Trafalgar di-

rector, said last night: "If Beazer want to make an improved offer they can do that and if they come up with something sufficiently interesting, we will talk to them. We have a duty to our sbareholders to do that." Mr Watkins admitted that

Beazer bad not been included in the formal bid process for Ideal, which began after Trafal-

make a formal offer, he said. Beazer subsequently lodged an expression of interest, but the Persimmon offer was preferred on grounds of price, the commercial terms, the degree of readiness to complete and the shorter timetable, he claimed.

Persimmon will receive a £3m compensation fee if it fails to reach agreement oo the offer. It is calling on shareholders for £91m in a one-for-two rights issue to part-finance the Ideal acquisition, its first, but the market generally reacted well to the deal. The shares fell just 4p

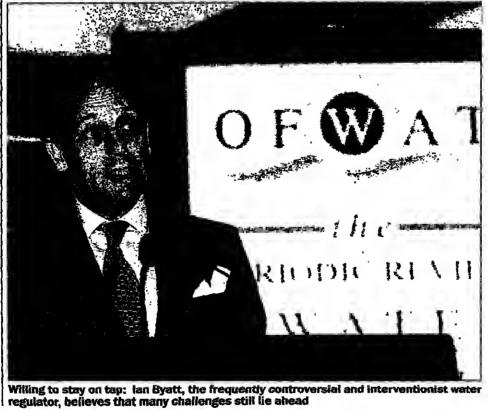
to 191p yesterday. .. Duncan Davidson said the

was that it would be earningsenhancing from the start, even before taking account of the tax losses and any cost cuts. The plan was to close six of the combined group's 21 offices, but Mr Davidson would give no indication as to possible redundancies or other cuts. However, the typical small office which is under threat of closure is thought to employ around 15

people, pointing to the loss of around 90 jobs. Ideal also has a head office at Woking, very close to another site at Weyhridge in the south of England, which could be combined.

The enlarged group will sell around 6,500 houses a year, ranking after Wimpey, Beazer and Barrett Homes. One of the key reasons for the deal was Ideal's land hank, Mr Davidson said. The group will own 23,700 plots or around four years' usage, at an average cost of around £16,200 each. Persimmon estimated profits

would dip to £22.5m for the year to last December, from £25.2m before, after a difficult selling period between April and September. It is proposing to bold the final dividend at 6.5p, to make a maintained total of



Byatt asks for another term to tackle change

Industrial Correspondent

lan Byatt, the water industry regulator, has asked to stay in the job after his present contract expires in June because of the continuing challenges in the sector. He has been at Ofwat since September 1989, just before the industry was privatised, and was widely expected to step down.

Mr Byatt believes that he should continue because of fuodameotal changes facing the industry, including the trend towards takeovers and mergers and the wider debate over the future of regulation as whole. Water has been at the centre of controversy since the goverument sell-off because of bills soaring well above inflation, driven partly by European rules on

quality and the environment. Mr Byatt was at the forefront of the move to challenge the Govweigh them against the overall benefits for customers. He also urged water companies to find out what customers felt it was worth paying for and reflect this

The watchdog has also shocked some in the sector because of his interventionist stance on takeovers. He has insisted that mergers between water companies should not go ahead without an offsetting advantage such as sharp price cuts for consumers. In the case of mergers with electricity firms, he has said be will look to ensuring core water operations within an enlarged group bave a separate stock market listing.

The industry has also attracted criticism over high divideods and boardroom pay. ernment to assess the need for . The row reached a crescendo quality improvements and over falling service standards during and following last year's drought.
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boardroom pay, but Mr Byatt has asked companies that had supply problems to make the necessary investment to prevent the situation recurring.

Ofwat confirmed that Mr Byatt "is prepared to stay in of-fice" for another term. But a spokeswoman said that the decision was a matter for the Secretary of State for the Environment.

It is thought that although Mr Byatt is not witout critics, be is regarded in Whitehall as a relatively sensible choice among the ranks of the regulators.

Boots expected to dispose of Childrens World

NIGEL COPE

Boots shares rose 12p to 619p the group is set to sell its Childrens World business, which has not made a profit since it start-

Storebouse, which owns Mothercare, is tipped as the most likely buyer of the cham, which is expected to fetch around £40m-£50m.

Boots declined to comment oo the possible sale yesterday. Storehouse also declined to he drawn on details, but a spokesman said Mothercare's first out-of-town store, which opened in Fosse Park, Leicestershire, last year, had been a success. All 52 branches of

Childrens World are out-of-

its under-performing business, which include the DIY chain Do It All as well as Fads and Home-

Boots started Childrens World in 1987, hoping to capi-talise on a demand for hasslefree shopping for children that involved an element of fun. The stores sell toys, clothes town.

Boots has been under pressure to take the axe to some of helter-skelters.

and oursery equipment and feature play areas which include helter-skelters.

cess of Boots the Chemist is being held back by losses in other areas.

However, the concept strug-gled to take off and the chain has oever made a profit. Last year losses increased to £1.9m on sales of £50m. Christmas trading was also poor, with the company blaming aggressive price competitioo on toys.

The sale would be welcomed in the City, which feels the suc-

Tony Shiret, retail analyst at BZW, said: "There is logic to the deal. It would give more scale to Mothercare and it would have greater buying power than Boots. Childrens World is a bit of an irrelevance to Boots and if they sold it, it would show a determination to get rid of some of the other underperforming businesses."

Storebouse woold he ex-

already has more than 260 branches, and derive other benefits from economies of scale. Mothercare has been a star

performer for Storehouse. Its profits jumped by 120 per cent to £9.3m in the six months to October. However, Christmas trading was disappointing, with management blaming a difficult market. Storehouse sbares

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Stagecoach bids £40m for GMBS

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR Transport Correspondent

More than 2,000 Manchester bus workers found themselves £9,000 better off yesterday when Stagecoach, Britain's biggest hus company, offered £40.7m for the south Manchester bus operation, GMBS. The valuation of around £50m, taking into account GMBS's debts of around £10m, is more than double the £20m

offered by Stagecoach two years ago wheo Manchester's two bus companies were privatised. The company was sold to a management-employee buy out team for £25m - and staff who took 1,000 £1 shares will now get £10 for each share.

Taking into account Stagecoach's recently announced acquisitions of Cambus, Devon General and one of the first rail franchises, South West Trains, turnover for the company will reach around £770m this year. The company now has 17 per cent of the country's bus mar-ket, compared with 4 per cent at its flotation in 1993.

local bus services in south Man- quire GMBS.

chester and has around 750 buses and coaches. It reported an operating profit of £4.9m last year and profit before tax of £2.9m on a turnover of £51.2m last year.

Stagecoach is confident that the bid, unlike many of its others, will not be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Employees will be offered 577 new Stagecoach ordinary shares for every 200 GMBS shares they hold. Since 49 per cent of the com-

pany is in the hands of the venture capital houses which are expected to recoup their investment and profit, Stagecoach is seeking financing of £19.9m by offering 6m shares which are being placed by No-hle Grossart and UBS at 331p per share.

Stagecoach say that the main purpose of the placing is to cut borrowings and contribute to acquisition costs. The placing is not conditional on the successful completion of the purchase. of GMBS. Derek Scott, finance director of Stagecoach, said: "It seems we considerably under-GMBS operates most of the bid when we first tried to ac-



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The rush is over for the ever-ready gold bugs

a five-year high has brought them out of the woodwork again with a vengeance. For inflation hawks, a scaraway gold price is a sign of trouble abead. For commodity huffs, it is a sign of future gains to come. In reality, the rise of over \$20 in January to breach the \$400 harrier is likely to be a speculative spike. If you haven't already made your pile out of this admittedly seductive metal, don't bother.

You've missed the boat.

The main physical markets that move the gold price nowadays are in the developing world, particularly the Far East, where consumers huy gold in high carat jewellery as a hedge against political uncertainty and high inflation. According to the World Gold Council, demand grew sharply in 1995, hitting an all-time high in the developing

world in the third quarter.

But then there are statistics and statistics. According to Andy Smith, precious metals analyst at UBS, demand fell sharply in key Far Eastern markets between the linst and second halves of 1995. Meanwhile, South Africa stepped up its sales in a hig way. He calculates that the resulting shortfall in demand over supply was as high as 500 tonnes, or a sixth of total annual demand. Even if the fundamentals of physical demand and supply were more promising. the overall economic background easts a

Say what you will about gold hugs, one thing is certain; you con't stamp them out. The sudden surge in the gold price this year to a five-year high has been about them out of gold peaked at an all-time high of \$850 an ounce. But that was after the second oit of gold peaked at an all-time high of \$850 an ounce. But that was after the second oit of gold peaked at an all-time high of \$850 an ounce. But that was after the second oit of gold peaked at an all-time high of \$850 an ounce. But that was after the second oit of gold peaked at an all-time high of \$850 and ounce. But that was after the second oit of gold peaked at an all-time high of \$850 and ounce. But that was after the second oit of gold peaked at an all-time high of \$850 and ounce. But that was after the second oit of gold peaked at an all-time high of \$850 and ounce. But that was after the second oit of gold peaked at an all-time high of \$850 and ounce. But that was after the second oit of gold peaked at an all-time high of \$850 and ounce. But that was after the second oit of gold peaked at an all-time high of \$850 and ounce. But that was after the second oit of gold peaked at an all-time high of \$850 and ounce. But that was after the second oit of gold peaked at an all-time high of \$850 and ounce. But that was after the second oit of gold peaked at an all-time high of \$850 and ounce. But that was after the second oit of gold peaked at an all-time high of \$850 and ounce. But the second oit of gold peaked at an all-time high of \$850 and ounce. But the second oit of gold peaked at an all-time high of \$850 and ounce. But the second oit of gold peaked at an all-time high of \$850 and ounce. But the second oit of gold peaked at an all-time high of \$850 and ounce. But the second oit of gold peaked at an all-time high of \$850 and ounce. But the second oit of gold peaked at an all-time high of \$850 and ounce. But the second oit of gold peaked at an all-time high of \$850 and ounce. But the second oit of gold peaked at an all-time high of \$850 and ounce. But the price shock and accompanying surge in global inflation. The disinflationary 1490s could hardly be more different from the inflationary 1970s. Then, inflation surprised by surpassing expectations, now it surprises by coming in below expectations.

With real interest rates uncomfortably high - rather than negative as they were in the 1970s - there is no point in holding gold other than the hope of piggy-backing off the speculative fun of the hig American hedge funds. A further problem is posed by the massive overhang of central hank holdings worth 12 times annual gold purchases. Foriunately for gold hugs, central bankers are a cautious lot, as desinclined to dump their hoard on the open market as they are to add to it. Even so, these holdings amount to a powerful buffer to the gold price the moment it moves much above \$400. Anyone hoping for a continued gold rush is tooking for fool's gold.

Hot air does not mean Branson has won

Hot air alone, even when it comes all the lower from Marrakesh, will not be enough to win Richard Branson the franchise to build the overall economic background casts a long shadow over those hoping for a return rail link, the choicest and higgest project so FT-SE 100 with a project-funding stock mar-

singing, all-dancing Private Finance Initiative. That doesn't stop him hoping, however. As Mr Branson ascends into the stratosphere in his round-the-world halloon, we are being subjected to a customary blast of the stuff. Yes, we've won, he announced in the week-

end press on behalf of the Virgin consortium. London & Continental Railways, and you never know, he may be right. The problem is, he usually isn't in cases like this. There were similar claims ahead of both the National Lottery and Channel 5 franchises. Poor Mr Branson. He is the perpetual bridesmaid, hidding for everything half way decent that falls from the Government's lap. but somehow or other never making it to the alter. Is he finally going to get there this time? Certainly he is in with a better chance than

ever before, if for no other reason that there are only two hidders left in the race. But he is not yet there, according to the Department of Transport yesterday. Eurorait, the rivat consortium (BtCC, Trafalgar House, Seaboard, HSBC and NatWestl. also believes it has won. The truth of the matter is that no decision has yet been taken, though one is imminent. The Virgin consortium has got marketing know-how and some experience of operational transport systems going for it, but its financing looks

on the dodgy side.
As for the claim that London & Conti-

ket float, anyone with Eurotunnel tucked away for a rainy day at £10 a share knows it will not. Coming from a man who when he look Viscio present the financial centre of Europe.

Notwithstanding the tribulations of the took Virgin private eight years ago swore hlind he would never again have anything to do with the City and the stock market, it is

atso a bit rich. But he may win, who knows? One thing is for sure, however, It won't be done on the back of a swashhuckling press campaign. With anything between £1hn and £2bn of public money at stake, ministers are not going to allow themselves to be swung by sentiment alone. Eurorail also has its drawbacks, not least that it is the contractor-dominated consortium of the type that originally gave hirth to Eurotunnel. But provided it comes up with a credible bid involving the higher transfer of risk from public to private sector and the lower level of public subsidy, it will heat Mr Branson, whatever his charms.

German bankers can't stay away from the City

Those German bankers just cannot keep their fingers off London, Yesterday's purchase of Panmure Gordon, the stockbroking firm, hy Westdeutsche Landesbank may he modest when set against the vast sums Deutsche and Dresdner are pouring into the City to set up hases from which to pursue their global investment banking ambitions. But it is very definitely in the same mould,

Stock Exchange, the fact is that as far as in international investment banking is concerned, the City is thriving. London is still in effect the only place in Europe with a dynamic deal-making financial culture, and despite the advances made by rivat Continental bourses, a proper feel for equity markets. This is the achilles heal of German hankers, who still only feel at home with deht. Panmure Gordon is very much a second division broking player, and largely UK focused. But its size fits in nearly with West LB's more targeted style of expansion, and should provide a solid hase for a Euro-

pean wide equities strategy.

As the third largest German bank, WestLB does not suffer from any shortage of cash. But unlike Deutsche and Dresdner it does not see itself as punching with the Wall Street giants. It wants to build a more spe-cialised international investment banking

For Panmure this should be good news, providing the capital fire-power for expanion. The financial clout was also there with Nationsbank, the previous owner, but the sense of strategic development was not. The price involved, helieved to be around £35m, s peanuts for a business of Nationsbank's size, but it can now concentrate on building up its preferred capital markets husiness in

Rates challenge: Motor insurer trawls for funds with launch of phone-based account as big banks report a sharp decline in lending

Direct Line moves into instant access

NIC CICUTTI

Direct Line, the UK's largest motor insurer, yesterday announced a further expansion of its growing financial services operation by launching a telephone-based instant access

The insurer's iniliative is aimed at attracting the funds needed to underpin its increasingly successful mortgagelending operation. It will also help to hold back the relentless downward spiral in the amount paid to savers caused by the three successive waves of mortgage rate reductions.

Direct Line account-holders will be offered 4.6 per cent before tax on savings up to £10,000, rising to 6 per cent for deposits above £25,000. The company claimed yesterday its rates beat those on offer from most other large banks or building societies.

In a further twist designed to capture accounts from entire family or groups of friends, the insurer offered them the chance to pool savings so they can receive interest at the higher rate.

lowed to pool accounts, with interest on each deposit being calculated separately. Individual account-holders will be able to segment their savings into separate parts, such as holidays or home improvements.

Jim Spowart, managing director of Direct Line Financial Services, said; "Our commit-ment is to give customers the best value deal on all our products, including savings rates. "Our low-cost operation allows us to provide a deal which will be difficult for banks and building societies to emulate."

Direct Line's move reflects its runaway success since being founded by Peter Wood, its chief executive, in 1985. The company has since ex-

panded from its motor insurance base, which has 1.9 million customers, into home and contents cover, term assurance and personal loans.

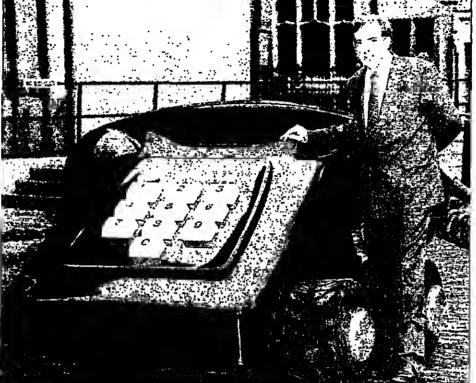
In the process, Mr Wood has become one of the best-paid chief executives, earning bonuses of up to £18m a year until Royal Bank of Scotland, which part-owns Direct Line, bought out his bonus scheme for

The firm's mortgage arm, launched 10 months ago, has lent £210m, financed until now by borrowing from money markets. Direct Line's venture into hanking mirrors that of huilding societies, which finance much of their lending from the

savings they attract. A Direct Line spokeswoman said yesterday that it aimed to enter into a bead-to-head contest with banks and building societies for their accounts by offering better rates than rivals, However, according to Mon-

eyFacts, a statistical service giving details of the best savings rates, Portman Building Society's instant access account yesterday offered 4.8 per cent gross on savings above £100, against a minimum savings level of £1,000 with Direct Line. Teachers Building Society's

Bullion Share account offers 55 per cent on deposits above £500, while Co-operative Bank's Pathfinder account pays 5.37 per cent on deposits above £5,000. Direct Line customers will be able to move funds in and out of their accounts by calling the company between 8am and



Homeowners in arrears decline

The number of homeowners in arrears or facing repossession fell significantly in 1995 in the wake of mortgage rale cuts and a drop in unemployment rates, a building society claimed yesterday, writes Nic Cicutti.

Birmingham Midsbires, a op-10 society, said its own calculations suggested repossessions would remain stable at about 50,000 in December 1995, compared with the same time a year earlier.

The number of people in arrears for 12 months, usually regarded as those most vulnerable to repossession orders from lenders, will have fallen from 117,000 a year ago to fewer than 90,000 last month.

Those in arrears on their mortgages between six and 12 months are also expected to decline, from 133.700 to around

The society's arrears and repossessions estimates, issued ach year, come days before official statistics from the Council of Mortgage Lenders, the

A Midshires spokesman said yesterday: "The drop in unemployment over the past year has helped. Cuts in interest rates have also made it easier for people paying off their dehts.

Many people are also saying the most important thing is their home and if the difference means giving up a holiday abroad to pay off their cebts, that's what they do."

Woolwich, Halifax and Alliance & Leicester building societies confirmed yesterday that there had been a slight improvement in arrears problems with repossession numbers remaining broadly stable.

The arrears prediction came as Britain's big banks recorded a dismal month for home loans, with nel mortgage lending down from £686m in November to £554m last month. New approvals were down 34 per cent on the previous month, from 29,291 to 19,241 in December.

The drop in net lending is even more significant when compared with December last

£100m private finance fund established

PETER RODGERS

terday that it boped to participate in up to £4bn of projects under the Government's private finance initiative. It claimed to he the first investment vehicle

tial capital from two leading investment institutions, Hermes

could eventually participate in £3bn to £4bn of the £26bn of projects the Government has said could be included in the PFI. Innisfree has drawn up a list of 45 PFI projects worth almost

They include two £70m prisons, at Bridgend and Fazakerley, the £250m Civil Aviation air traffic control centre, the £100m Edinburgh Royal Infirmary project, the £190m A1-M1 link road and the £200m refurbishment of the Treasury building in Whitehall.

separate figures showed both an

unexpected jump in industrial

output last month and a

planned rise in investment

spending by Japanese firms in

the year to Marcb.

Mr Brooke, who is also chair-£1.5-£2bn in project value, and twice that if the fund reaches its

Alistair Ross-Goobey, head

of Innisfree, said investments would be in projects worth between £25m and £400m. He said PFI projects for the

MARY FAGAN Industrial Correspondent

Clare Spottiswoode, the gas industry regulator, is calling for backdated price cuts for consumers should competition in the domestic market be delayed. The move by Ms Spottiswoode comes as British Gas continues to insist that competition, due to start for 500,000 households in the South-west on 1 April, should be postponed.

Ms Spottiswoode believes that in the event of a delay, consumers who ultimately switch to lower-cost suppliers should have those prices backdated to

April. She argues that British Gas and its rivals, which include offshore companies and electricity firms, should sort out the financial implications and that consumers should not be

penalised. Rivals such as Amerada Hess plan to undercut the company by up to 15 per cent and so far British Gas has failed to say how it will respond. There are fears in the company that others will come in and cherry-pick the most lucrative users, leaving it with those who are least eco-

nomical to supply.
The moves by Ofgas to backdate price reductions are at an early stage and are the latest

Capel and Montagu merged

twist in the long-running battle to have competition introduced on time. British Gas has warned that there could he chaos because of insufficient testing of computer and hilling systems. It is thought that the company angered Ms Spottiswoode last week by agreeing to a statement in favour of the 1 April kick-off and then continuing to complain

Ofgas threatens to seek backdated price cuts

that delays are necessary. British Gas' pipeline arm, said 1 June was the earliest sensible date for competition to begin. Critics of the company say this

A spokesman for TransCo. could be the first of many efforts a review of British Gas price to put off the opening of the controls to be completed by the market in the hope that it may

director, argues that postpone. ment is the only way to ensure things are "hassle-free". The row over the domestic market is one of a series of bat-

tles which British Gas faces with the regulator. Ms Spottiswoode is expected to intervene soon to block imminent increases in charges for other companies that need to use British Gas's pipes. At the same time, the watchdog is consulting on fundamental changes in the way the company is regulated as part of middle of the year. Separately,

never happen. But Harry large industrial users are calling Moulson, TransCo's managing on Ms Spottiswoode's office to investigate the company's policy of cutting supplies at times of high demand, including during the cold snap.

Many large users have contracts at low prices on condition that they can be interrupted when demand from other consumers soars.

Meanwhile, Moody's, the credit rating agency, has placed British Gas's deht under review for a possible downgrade. Moody's said the review would focus on a number of factors, including the company's on-going negotia-

Daiwa makes its **US** withdrawal

the US by Thursday, banding over its operations to Sumitomo Bank. Daiwa said Sumitomo Bank would pay \$3.3bn (£2.2bm) for the loans and transactions and an additional \$65m for rights to husiness at 15 of Daiwa's US branches and a Daiwa trust bank unit in New York. Daiwa had a total of \$4.3bn in loans and other transactions in the US. The outstanding \$1bn would be transferred to Daiwa's

crease well above expectations.

thorities announced a 24-count criminal indictment against Daiwa, covering charges of con-spiracy to defraud the Federal Reserve Bank, mail and wire fraud and falsifying hank records, and ordered it to close

Senior Daiwa officials are al legedly implicated in shifting bundreds of millions of dollars around the world to hide the \$1.1bn losses run up by the bond trader Toshihide Iguchi. Daiwa has vowed to fight the charges. Sumitomo said last November that it would help Daiwa to close down its US operations, and the presidents of the two banks said they would consid-In November, the US au- er a merger in the future.

of Montagu, will become the chief executive of HSBC Investment MCI links up with Microsoft

MCI and Microsoft yesterday unveiled a joint venture to supply on-line and Internet services, the companies said. Initially, the deal will permit MCI to distribute the Microsoft Network over its telephone network. The companies also intend to develop additional on-line services. As a result of the venture, MCI is reducing its stake in a competing on-line service jointly run by News Corp., Rupert Murdoch's media holding company. MCI said it would recruit additional partners to join in.

IN BRIEF

James Capel and Samuel Montagu, two of the hest-known names

in UK financial markets, are to be merged into a new entity, HSBC

Investment Banking. Announcing the biggest shake-up of its in-

vestment banking. Aminoting the biggest shake-up of its investment banking operations since it bought the stockbroking firm James Capel in 1984, HSBC said the move would climinate confusion and highlight the powerful parent. HSBC said it would drop the James Capel and Samuel Montagu names for Continental European husiness, opting instead for HSBC Investment Banking. Capel and Montagu will be preserved for husiness within the UK but will be prefixed with HSBC. Keith Harris, the former head of Montagu will become the chief execution of HSBC Investment.

Welsh Water wins 75% of Swalec

Welsh Water has received acceptances of its offer for South Wales Electricity in respect of 69.5 million Swalec shares or about 74.8 per cent of the company. Welsh now owns or has acceptances representing almost 88 per cent of Swalec and has declared the of-fer unconditional except for the planned listing of the new Welsh Water ordinary shares and the new Welsh Water preference shares.

Quality Software gets softer

Shares in Quality Software Products, the accounting software supplier, lost 30 per cent of their value yesterday when the company warned that its current year's profits would not meet market expectations. The company blamed the warning on a delay in the signing of some large contracts and a staff re-organisation. The

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Nature of Business

Postcode

Prisons, hospitals and roads are among the possible investments for a new £100m City fund announced yesterday. Innisfree PFI Fund said yes-

set up specifically to invest in PFI projects. The fund has raised £50m ini-

Investment Management, which is acting as sponsor, and AMP Asset Management. The plan is to raise the same again from other institutions by April.

Roger Brooke, chairman of Innisfree, said the new fund could eventually participate in

£4bn which it describes as potential investment opportunities.

man of the management buyout firm Candover, said the plan was to invest up to 25 per cent in the equity of consortia set up with construction and other specialist companies involved in PFI work. Because the consortia tended to be highly geared, with most of the finance from hank loans rather than equity, the initial £50m could generate

£100m target, he said. The Treasury has been heavily criticised for a slow start to the whole PFI programme, and one of the many factors hlamed for this is a shortage of capital among construction and civil engineering companies to invest in new projects. The Treasury said it welcomed the new fund.

of Hermes, is a member of the Treasury's private finance panel, which advises the Government on the PFI. Matthew Webber, an executive director of Innisfree, was seconded to the private finance panel last year from Kleinwort Benson. David Metter, chief executive

most part relied on well un-derstood technologies and construction methods where risks were readily identifiable.



a meter reading taken on 1

JOHN EISENHAMMER

Daiwa Bank, hit by a massive bond trading scandal last year in New York, is to pull out of parent body in Japan.

its US operations by 2 February.

The Economic Planning Agency said separately that in-It was the third monthly rise in vestment spending by Japanese firms was expected to grow 4 per cent in the year to March and another 24 per cent the following quarter. This compared with a rise of less than 1 per cent

Output leap eases Japanese recession fears of semiconductors, mobile phones and kerosene heaters, concerning Japan's economic ond-biggest economy took recovery has increased. **Economics Correspondent** Industrial output climbed 0.8 due to cold weather. share prices higher, with the Nikkei 225 index ending nearly 75 points up at 20,589 20. Econ-omists said signs of a pick-up would help to ease fears that the per cent in December, an in-Fears of continuing recession in Japan receded yesterday after

a row, and manufacturers said they expected even bigger in-creases in January and February. industrial world as a whole was heading for recession. Tomio Tsutsumi, the vice-Public works projects conminister for trade and industry, tributed to the increase in out-

Evidence of a long awaited said: "The degree of certainty put last month. So did output in the year to December.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN Edited by Magnus Grimond

The moment of truth for insurers

Composite insurers: at a glance

Current share Estimated 1995 net

sults for 1995 will beat what was already a bumper year in 1994. The cur- Alliance is a good defensive choice, bolrent icy temperatures nothwithstand- stered by its greater ability to cut costs. ing, recent hencyolent weather conditions and lower claims mean that profits will again be led by the domestic market for non-life husiness. Bul. as ever, share prices are already looking ahead to the downturn and the sector has only barely outpaced the rest of the

market over the past year. In the past, insurance companies have vied with banks as the Neandenhals of British industry. Typically. a downswing in the insurance cycle saw underwriting losses soar as rates tumbled, a situation which often combined with a decline in investment returns to put a double squeeze on the compos-ites' profits. Only their spread of in-come, principally from life insurance, has helped to support profits during

these lean times.

But with 1995 expected to mark a peak year of profitability, the optimists believe that the current cycle could be different from every other in recent experience. There are two main factors

said to have had a profound effect Firstly, in the key UK market - which our table shows remains an area of crit-ical importance to the big five insurers - the big losses of the early part of the decade are unlikely to be repeated. The argument runs that previous problems resulted from a rare combination of unusual subsidence claims after very dry weather and the mortgage indemnity crisis created by the housing market collapse of the late 1980s.

Apart from those circumstances being unlikely to be repeated, the insurance companies have moved to correct some poor rating practices. As anyone with a mortgage will know, buildings insurance rates are highly individualised, being based on the claims experience of particular streets, and much higher than in the past.

This new level of sophistication is the second reason the bulls believe insurers will have a better recession than in the past. Companies can react more quickly and precisely to factors affecting pricing.

The problem with these arguments is that, like generals, insurance companies tend to base their future strategy on the last war and have almost certainly failed to anticipate the next disaster. But for those hrave enough to believe in the principle that past ex-

The UK composites are less than a month away from their reporting season and all the indications are that reson and all the indications are that resonance in the composite of the transfer of quality of its UK business, while Sun

Atal weighs down Bullough

If Tevor Bond, Bullough's chief executive, has nightmares they are probahly based in France and feature office furniture. The diversified engineering group's French office furniture division, Atal, has been a persistent headache and after three restructures in five years the jury is still out on whether the com-

pany can be put right.

Atal caused Bullough to issue a profits warning in September and wrecked the decent performance elsewhere in refrigeration, heating and engineering revealed yesterday. Group profits for the year to March were down 17 per cent to £14.5m. Atal recorded an operating loss of £4.5m, with a further £2.2m of provisions to cover the latest round of re-structuring.

Commercial Union

Sun affiance

Share price

900 91 92

Atal's problems have been caused by low growth, a freeze on government spending and a rise in raw material prices. Production problems in the fac-

tories have added to the difficulties. Bullough has wielded the big stick, but admits that if the company cannot be turned around it may have to be sold. Il has brought in new management, cut jobs by 10 per cent and improved pro-ductivity. Steel prices are also starting to come down.

The problems of Atal overshadowed better performances in Bullough's mixed bag of other businesses. The UK office furniture division did well, boosted by the Pentos acquisition last year, which contributed £1.6m in the eight months.

The refrigeration business also in-creased profits thanks to higher sales of chilled cabinets to supermarkets and fast-food restaurants last year. However, the hot summer dented profits at the heating division.

Further reshaping of Bullough is likely, with the addition of an engineering business to halance the portfolio top of the shopping list. But with gearing of 45 per cent the company does not have much room for ma-noeuvre. Atal losses have taken their

374

293

premiums and profit

39.7

35.7

39.7

48.7

49,9

UK non life

Royal

Sun allance

Estimated 1995 gross yield, %

5.7

Pre-tax profit

toll on the shares, which hit 190p last year but fell a further 5p yesterday to 105p. With analysts cutting this year's profit forecasts from £22m to around £18.5m, the shares are on a forward rating of 10. Cheap, but not without risk.

Bookings sag at Eurocamp

The woes of the holidays market were underlined yesterday by results from Eurocamp. The holiday group's bookings for this summer are down 20 per cent on last year as customers wait for a late booking and the chance of a dis-count. The group says it sold only 5-10 per cent of its holidays at cut prices last year, but some of those discounts were as high as a third.

It has also found margins squeezed as an increasing number of parents choose to avoid the higher prices during the school holidays. The company is considering "flattening" its pricing

A further problem for Eurocamp is that three-quarters of its self-drive camping holidays are to France. Holdays there have been affected by the strong French franc, while there has also been a shift in sentiment caused by last year's strikes and the nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

This contributed to yesterday's 21p slide in Eurocamp's share price to 230p, barely above the 220p issue price when it came to the market in 1991. Yesterday's slump was due princi-

pally to the bad news on bookings. The results themselves came as little surprise after the company had issued a

Profits for the year to March were up from £8.7m to £9.3m on sales of £87m. Superbreak, the short-break specialist acquired for £21m last year, proved the star turn, contributing £1.2m of profits on sales of £10.7m. The acquisition underlines the wisdom of reducing reliance on the summer sales period. Stripping out Superbreak, Eurocamp's underlying profits fell from £8.7m to £8.1m.

Analysts have cut forecasts from £12m to £10.5m for the current year. With the shares at their lowest for two years, they are at a significant discount to the market on a forward rating of 11. But with the tour operator market clouded by so much uncertainty, the shares look a weak hold.

John Willcock CITY DIAR

Out of the kitchen and into a very hot seat

The Chancellor has appointed fill Rutter to be his press secretary, in succession to Andrew Hudson. Ms Rutter, 39, was described by one colleague yesterday as "a bit of a blue stocking - one of the cleverest people in the Treasury. Her appointment reflects the importance of the job over the next 12 months."
After Oxford she became

private secretary to the Chief ecretary between 1986 and 1988, then worked at the Number 10 Policy Unit from 1992 to 1994. Another Whitehall insider said: She's been in the kitchen with the heater on full blast." Meanwhile the well regarded Mr Hudson, described as "earnest" and "donnish", will return to a policy joh in the Treasury. Both are advised to move fast; apparently the current "downsizing" of the Treasury means desks are at a premium.

The central banks of Uruguay, Argentina and a number of other Latin American countries have something in common. When you phone them, the tune played on hold is the ragume piano classic by Scott Joplin that became the theme to the film The Sting. It puts a whole new slant on the sovereign debt crisis.

Mention the words "liquid gold" and most people would think of the Leeds Building Society's interest-paying account, as advertised by the Arthur Daley actor, George Cole. Although the Leeds was swallowed by the Halifax last April, the account lives on as the "Halifax Liquid

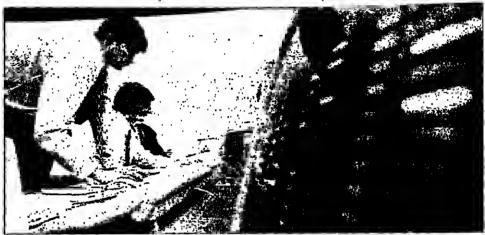
Gold". Yesterday "Barker's Liquid Gold" was launched - a blend of vodka and cola available in an off-licence near you at 89p a can. But this had nothing to do with building societies. A spokesman for Cott, the world's fourth-largest drink company, which recently launched Two Dogs alcoholic lemonade, has hit on alcoholic cola as the next

winner. Cott said that the Barker's branding illustrated the character and history of Billy Barker, a ruddycheeked publican, sailor and failed tenor who landed in Canada during the Klondike gold rush. The ad copy tells of Billy's accidental discovery of the drink after a bottle of vodka is knocked into a

1 4

pitcher of cola-Cott insisted yesterday that there was no trademark problem with the huilding society product. Trademarks are listed under classes, and beverages are in a separate class to financial services products, a spokesman said, A spokeswoman for the Halifax said that, while they had not beard of this new drink before, there "didn't seem to be a problem". Bottoms up.

Croatia and Slovenia are olarming bond issues through London following the outbreak of peace in the former Yugoslavia. Heading Croalia's programme is its intriguingly named finance minister, Mr Bozo Prka.



Yesterday will go down in history as the day the National Grid failed to fail. Prompted by dire press predictions that the entire nation would suffer power cuts if the cold weather continued, six TV crews and a host of hacks crowded into the Grid's control room at Wokingham, Surrey, ready to watch the catastrophe unfold. Their creative skills were

tested to the limits as they had to tell the shivering millions that the supply was holding up quite well after all, but there might possibly he a power cut later. The heavily outnumbered National Grid engineers sat twiddling their thumbs as the backs described to camera bow they were "battling to keep Britain ou-line". Photograph: Brian Harris

93

PETER RODGERS Business Editor

The campaign to sell Railtrack to the City for up to £2bn got into its stride yesterday with the first full scale meeting between the company and insultutional

About 80 specialists from investment management firms were hriefed at SBC Warburg's conference centre by Sir George Young, the transport secretary, and Bob Horton, the chairman of Railtrack.

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section two

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section two

sales

This will be followed today by a seminar to brief share shop specialists. The government said carlier this month it had decided not to set up a full scale share information office along the lines of other larger privatisations and it plans to concentrate private investor

marketing through share shops. At yesterday's meeting Mr Horton was accompanied by John Swift, the rail regulator, Roger Salmon, who runs the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising (and is charged with sell-

ing the train operating companies) and Wynn Ellis, head of SBC Warburg's Railtrack analysis team. The investment hank is global co-ordinator to the sale. Sir George said that 32 rail

husinesses with turnover of £2bn had been sold so far and 30 companies with turnover of £3hn were on the market. He added: "The responses from the private sector, from major companies and leading financiers around the world have con-

that most of the building blocks

With the interim results also out of the way last week, the sale is scheduled to go ahead in May, less than two months after the

founded our critics. Railtrack's advisers believe

are in place for the sale of the track infrastructure company for £1.5-£2bn, after the cost of performance penalties and the size of the company's share in property profits were clarified

end of the financial year in March. The main financial problem remaining is the scale of the debt write-off.

IN BRIEF

'Lower growth' warning at LVMH

Shares in the luxury goods group Louis Vuitton Moet Hennesy fell in France yesterday when the company predicted lower-than-expected profits for 1995. LVMH said profits should increase by 10 per cent - not the 15 per cent analysis had forecast. Sales in the year rose 6.4 per cent to Fr29.7bn (£3.96bn). Sales of cognac and spirits fell by 12 per cent to Fr3.25bn. However sales of huggage and leather goods were up 10 per cent. Perfume and beauty product sales improved by more than 20 per cent.

Haynes motors ahead

Haynes Publishing, the car manuals publisher, has motored ahead with solid results for the six months to November. Profits were up 2 per cent to £2.2m on the previous year – when figures were inflated by property disposals. Sales were up almost 10 per cent to £13m with both the UK and US operations performing well. The UK husiness was boosted by strong promotional activity from hig retailers. General publishing did not perform well. Continued the certainty following the collapse of the Net Book Agreement. uncertainty following the collapse of the Net Book Agreement in October means this situation is unlikley to improve before the

£40m price tag when Fulmar floats

Fulmar, a Croydon-based printing group, is coming to the stock market in the spring with a price tag of around £40m. Mike Taylor, who founded the business with £4,000 in a garage in 1972. will raise £2m from the flotation and retain a 50 per cent stake. The group's workload ranges from corporate leaflets to book jackets and annual reports. Customers include Shell, Macmillan and Pentland. Operating profits are expected to have leapt from £2.5m to more than £4m last year, on sales up from £15.9m to over £20m.

Filtronic beats its budget

Filtronic Comtek, which makes mobile telephone system components, remains optimistic about the rest of the year after beating its budgets in the first half. Pre-tax profits jumped from £1.5m to £2m in the six months to November, enabling a maiden interim dividend of 0.75p. Chairman David Rhodes said demand was strong and it was well positioned in many new infrastructure programmes. He reiterated that it was looking forward to a particularly strong performance in the second half of the financial year, "continuing and increasing through 1996-7 and beyond."

	COMPA	Y RESULT	S	
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omlyand Leisuns (I)	0 64m (0.77m)	-0.25m (-0.08m)	-1 78p (-0.57p)	mi (-)
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ayries Pablishing (i)	13.1m (11.6m)	2-2m (2.15m)	B.3p (B.2p)	4 5p (4p)
d Greatings (1)	17.3m (14 9m)	1.03m (0.62m)	16.2p (10.8p)	5p (nii)
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Railtrack sale gets into its stride | Step back from the Euro debate to make investment decisions

The great "Euro" dehate moves on by the day. During the last couple of weeks it has been the downgrading of the growth forecasts for Germany and France which brought out into the open the practical difficulties both countries faced in meeting the Maasticht conver-

gence criteria. The markets last week responded by pushing up the mark as a safe haven from Euro-chaos. Then at the weekend, in response to these forecasts, there were a clutch of political speeches, some asserting that the single currency must go ahead on schedule, oth ers that it could be delayed without damage.

Yesterday the scene shifted to Brussels, the first ministerial meeting since the deterioration of German and French public finances became evident. There it was the turn of Malcolm Rifkind to stir the pot by say-ing in public what he had previously said in private: that

Even buyers of gilts are not certain to be repaid in sterling

Britain reckoned that the present timetable for EMU had "a serious credibility problem", a comment not designed to endear him to the Brussels

Now from the perspective of most Britons it is tempting to see this as all good clean fun: nice to see the pompous Euroenthusiasts squirming for a change. But quite aside from being a bit childish, that sort of reaction has to be set against the reality that EMU may well still

happen.
If Germany and France do
wish to establish a single currency in 1999, it is technically
perfectly possible for them to do so. It would just be a question of changing the Maastricht rules. In any case, even if France and Germany missed the conditions in 1997, at some stage in the next three or four years they would be able to scramble back within them. The present war of words between various potiticians around the EU is about delay, not about junking

A much more sensible approach is to step hack from the politics and focus on the range

ECONOMIC VIEW HAMISH McRAE

is to construct a flow-chart,

which might run on these lines. First, you have to decide the odds on any countries going ahead in 1999. Next, there is the extent to which the criteria are eased, bent, or broken to allow these to do so. Obviously the wider the group, the greater the flexibility of the criteria. Final-, depending on which countries had been excluded, you would make some guesses as to when the outsiders might be ad-

mitted, if they wanted to. On the other hand, if the 1999 date were not met, you would make a separate set of judgements: how long the delay might be, whether delay would scupper the project, and perhaps the runners and riders for start dates of, say, 2002 and

There is nothing wrong with that approach, and it is useful because even if you give quite a tow probability to the start date of 1999, you tend to find that the chance of there being some sort of EMU by 2005 is quite large. People considering buying 10-year or longer-dated German bonds needs to be aware that they will probably be repaid in another currency. Indeed if investors are really determined to be repaid in the same currency as they are lending, they really should stick to dollars or yen.

Even buyers of gilts are not certain to be repaid in sterling, though amusingly there were some suggestions yesterday that gilts were becoming a safe haven amidst the turmoil of Eu-

of market implications. There ropean currencies. That shows are two ways into this. The first that things have really come to

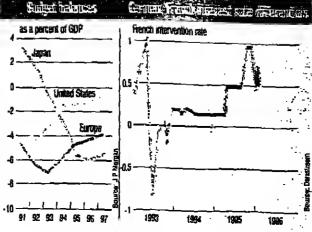
a pretty pass. This points to another way of looking at the whole business. It is to say something like this. Let's forget about the details of the EMU dehate, because we simply cannot add anything sensible to it. What happens and when will be a political decision over which we have no control. instead we should adopt a practical, fact-based approach to all investment decisions, and see where that leads.

That sort of approach heads in this direction. First, look at global inflation trends. These are clearly down and have been down since the early 1980s. There is no sign of any reversal of the secular trend, though obviously there will be cyclical

Anyone investing money in bonds maturing in 20 years' time is making a grand decision about global inflation, hesides which the performance of in-dividual currencies is tess im-portant. If world inflation comes down, so will inflation in the various European currencies, though by somewhat dif-

But we still have to make a choice of the relative attractiveness of different lenders, so what are the guides there? The age-old laws of supply and de-mand hold good, but since we can have little idea of the demand for bonds in the second decade of the next century, let's focus on supply.
The graph (below left) shows

what has been happening to the supply of government bonds in Committee of the contract of the contract



the three big economic zones. showing that the supply is most restricted at the moment in the US, has increased rapidly in Japan, and is continuous and considerable in Europe. On this very simplistic basis, dollardenominated bonds ought, on the face of it, to be attractive compared with Japanese and

European ones.
One should also look at the stock as well as the flow, at the size of the European public sec-tor debt in relation to gross domestic product compared with Japan and the US, and at the different levels within Europe. Allow for the different age structure of Japan and the US and the debt levels are not vastly different.

Most European countries, on the other hand, either have very high debt levels (Belgium. Italy), or they have rapidly ageing populations (France, Germany, Italy again). Since economic textbooks point out that the ability to service a

We still have to choose the relative attractiveness of different lenders

country's debt depends on the tax-gathering powers of a gov-ernment, age structure is very important to the ability of country to bonour its debts.
In so far as sterling ought to

be a safe haven, it is not because the pound seems likely to ex-clude itself from the "Euro" game it is because, for the next 20 years, the UK has a significantly less unlavourable age structure than the other larger European nations.

Look at those big issues, those that determine creditworthiness, rather than current fashions in economic or political thinking. The righthand graph shows just how volatile the crucial relationship between French and German interest rates has been over the last three years: whenever the franc is weak, the French authorities bave to jack up interest rates. But the reality of the relationship between the two currencies has hardly changed. f think there is a moral here.

We do not know what will happen to EMU. But if investors are risk-averse, they steer clear of the whole thing and invest in

C)

DATA BANK

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SHARE SPOTLIGHT

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Airtours close to deal with Carnival cruise giant

Final agreement is understood to have been reached for Carnival Corporation, the world's largest cruise ship operator, to take a near 30 per cent stake in Airtours, the second largest

holiday company in the UK. Airtours first admitted it was in talks the week before last, following a sharp rise in its share price. A City source said vesterday that the deal documents were closed to be-ing signed. The deal will mostly involve the issue of new shares, and be accompanied by a partial offer to existing shareholders. Airtours, valued at almost £500m, is a very tightly held stock. David Crossland, chairman and founder, owns 30 million of the 115 million in issue, and there are several

large institutional holders. Airtours may well accompany any announcement on Carnival with a separate deal to buy Spies of Denmark, as

pand in Europe by establish-

ing a firm base in Scandinavia. Speculation that the deal might be imminent did not start circulating until the mar-ket had closed for business yesterday. By the close of dealings. shares in Airtours were trading 2p down at 424p largely re-flecting disappointing results from Eurocamp. The specialist camping operator caused disappointment by reporting a 20 per cent decline in bookings for this summer.

Investors were wrong-footed by the news despite bad news on holiday bookings by every other tour operator in recent weeks, Eurocamp's shares plunged 21p to 230p, and al-most one million were dealt. First Choice, the UK's third largest tour operator, dropped

3p to 71p. The market was largely bereft of gossip yesterday and share prices generally spent cuts in interest rates appear to be keeping the lid on the London market. Gilt edged stocks The market was largely



MARKET REPORT JOHN SHEPHERD

quarter of a point. Volume trading yesterday struggled to reach 688 million, given that

there was some very chunky

business conducted in several of the leaders. The most ac-

tively-traded included British

Gas, 21 million, Lloyds TSB, 32

million, and 12 million each

British Steel and in Forte,

which disappears from the

British Gas dropped 4p to

Footsie tomorrow.

time. The FT-SE 100 share index bounced around between plus and minus 7 points, and finished virtually bang in the middle at 3,734.6 – a fall of 0.1 of a point on the day. Investors paid very little at-

tention to the record breaking antics on the other side of the Atlantic Trading on Wall Street yesterday opened on a firm footing following Friday night's 55 point surge in the Dow Jones index to yet another peak of 5,271.75.

A lack of real takeover action and fading hopes of fresh

tionwide - the country's second largest lender - is on the verge of slashing mortgage rates and simultaneously raising interest rates for savers. This will put the squeeze on building societies that have turned banks-like the Abbey National - because such moves will eat into profits and limit their scope to raise dividend payments to sharebolders.

The threat of a mortgage war prompted analysts James Capel and SBC Warburg to switch their investment rec-236p. complaints against the company have doubled, and it is becoming enhroiled in a ommendations for Abbey yesterday from buy to hold.

fierce row over its right to cut
off power stations amid one of

Away from the gloom, several second liners registered the coldest winters in decades.

A chilly wind also blew and fresh bid speculation.

worries about an all-out war among mortgage lenders took Abbey National down 18p to 614p. The fall wiped £237m off the company's value.

The main fear is that National fall fear fall fe

Unichem fell 6p to 249p.
Renewed bid speculation lifted Ladbroke 5p to 174p.
The company – seen in some quarters as a target for Bass – is negotiating to buy the Barracuda casino in London from

Stakis, steady at 87p.

Reed International firmed
7p to £10.17p on rumours of an
imminent £60m disposal of its 50 per cent share in Book Club Associates to its joint ven-ture partner, Bertlesmann. There is also talk that Virgin Publishing is looking to buy Reed Consumer Books for up

to £100m. Shares in Boots climbed 12p to 619p on gossip that it was to sell its Childrens World stores to be with IBM. Shares in to Storehouse, a penny softer

Oei Hong Leong, the Chinese tycoon, is believed to have tightened his grip on Bolton Group and is looking

TAKING STOCK

to use the tiny property in-vestment company as a vehi-cle to buy telecom and cable firms. More than 17 million Bolton shares, up 2p to 25p, were traded. It is understood Giant Point Developments. his holding company, has in-creased its stake in Bolton from 27 to 28 per cent by huy-ing shares from other

Trading volume in Video-Logic was hrisk, with more than 1.6 million shares dealt by the close of business. There was gossip that the company was close to signing a couple of big supply deals for its multimedia computer chips. One of the deals is said VideoLogic firmed 0.5p to a

	J J A S O N B 10 bur part o	uy Spies of Denmark, as of its concerted push to ex-	share prices generally spent much of the session marking	don market. Gilt edged stocks recorded losses extending to	A chilly used also blow	and fresh bid speculation. Lloyds Chemists sprinted 24p	to Storehouse, a penny softer VideoLogic firmed 0.5p to a year's high of 68p.
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FIELD

Hodgson in Fogarty's slipstream

John Roberts meets the latest recruit to Superbikes who is out to make life uncomfortable for his Lancastrian neighbour, the reigning world champion

n an unfinished section of ing with the April meetings at Mismotorway - at the cobbled end of the network, comedians would say - it is possible to catch Carl Fogarty and Neil Hodg-son training together for a duel which has become the talk of

motorcycling.
Fogarty is the world Superbike champion, the life and soul of Ducati for the past two years. Hodgson covets his title, having leapt into the saddle Foggy va-cated on the Italian factory team when transferring to Honda.

There is little evidence of the rivalry between the 29-year-old Fog-arty and his 22-year-old challenger. however, as they steer motocross hikes over the makings of the M65 extension in East Lancashire. Hodgson even borrows one of Fogarty's machines

The sessions are a reminder of their beginnings riding over flat, muddy local fields as members of the Vale of Rossendale schoolboy motocross club. Darren Barton, 21, another graduate, recently joined the Aprilia 125cc factory team, so there are now three professional racers living within eight miles of each other. "It must be something in the water," said Hodgson, who first rode motocross at the age of

Since putting his 500cc grand prix career on hold to accept Ducati's offer of a two-year Superbike contract, Hodgson has become the focus of attention. He is about to embark on a world tour to test the

ano and Donington Park.

There are signs of a growing af-fluence. A BMW 320, registration NSH I (the middle name is Stuart), a gift from one of his sponsors, a Yorkshire insurance broker, has replaced a Honda Civic in the drive of the farmhouse in Burnley where he resides with his parents and an older brother, Carl.

Although never doubting that he was destined to race motorcycles after being introduced to them by his father, Mark, a club level competitor, Hodgson used to supplement his riding by working as a £60 per week labourer. Last year he Neil Hodgson: 'If I could win the world championship, I'll be a big, big hot property and everyone's going to want me' made £15,000 as a "privateer" on

three Cs Art, Business Studies and I appreciate the position I'm in English], I was left with a little hit now, of a dilemma: I had to find a joh."

ing me down.

the 500cc circuit, then Ducati ele- and being a bit of a star, I'd be back vated him to six figures as a works carrying the hod on a Monday rider. If he wins the world title, he could earn from £4-5m per year.

"At school I was a daydreamer,"

At school I was a daydreamer,"

"At school I was a daydreamer," he said. "I was the boy staring out I was the skivey. I got the red hot of the window thinking about the tea hag on the back of the neck next motocross race, so obviously every morning. But I'm not commy results suffered. At 16, with just plaining. I'm glad I did that, because

f a dilemma: I had to find a joh." Hodgson's level-headconess, ex-A friend told him that the huild-emplified by his resistance of a ing trade was "a hit of a laugh", strong temptation to treat himself which did not always prove to be the to a Porsche - "I could buy one now. case during his two years on the but I'm a sensible northerner and sites. "I was really feeling quite small know that things could all go trying to carry the hod," he recounted. "They only had to put two fiercely competitive nature and a or three bricks in it and it was weigh- talent that has drawn comparison to Barry Sheene.

"I was still working when I won "At school I was the captain of the British 125cc championship, the football team, and I ended up

fences, and Nick Henderson's

In the Arkle, Henderson's

Sublime Fellow, a faller at the

last in Trying Again's Kempton

David Nicholson has an em-

barrassment of riches in the Sun

Alliance with five entries. The

Irish bookmakers Liam Cash-

man have already opened bet-

ting on the race and make Nicholson's St Mellion Fairway.

who also holds a Gold Cup en-

try, the best of the quinter at 7-

I behind Mr Mulligan on 6-1. Billygoat Gruff, Call It A Day,

Hill Of Tullow and King Lucifer

Martin Pipe's ex-French

mare Draborgie is entered for

both novice events and Cash-

man makes her favourite, at 9-

complete his challenge.

race, looks interesting.

about winning," Hodgson said. "I pulled out of grand prix, basically, because I wasn't offered the right bike to win.

British riders tend not to be first in line for the best factory 500cc machines on account of national opposition to eigarette advertising. In terms of sponsorship, the grand prix circuit is tobacco road.

"I'm pretty confident going into Superbikes," Hodgson added. "I don't think I'm going to go out there and win every race and be the man, because nobody's ever done that. But I believe that I could learn and be up there and certainly win a few

Fogarty is the man. According to Hodgson, the Blackhurn rider is "seriously wealthy now, incredibly outspoken - he slags his own team off - and a little bit weird".

On a personal level, Hodgson has come to terms with his rival's per- of the best things he's ever said. He sonality. "Over the past 20 months said: 'Look, me and Neil, we aren't

I've got to know Foggy a little bit better, but he's hard to have a con-versation with." While respecting him as an opponent, he recognises the value of adding spice to the

situation. "Carl Fogarty, I'd say, was the third or fourth best motorcyclist in the world, in any cc, and I'm going to try to beat him. If I could win the world championship - and that's the

plan - I'll be a hig, hig hot proper-ty, and everyone's going to want me." Is it developing into a "kick ass" rivalry? "It almost gets like that," Hodgson said. "We did a television interview and nearly ended up fighting. I said, Well, hopefully Γm going to win the championship. I'm on the best hike. Then Foggy grabbed the mike and said, 'Yeah, but he isn't the best rider', and before we knew it we were arguing.

"And then Carl said probably one

going to fall out with each other. We Hodgson's personal use. The last want to do well. If Neil wins one time he rode on the public highway was when he took his bike test at weekend, then he was the best man the age of 19.
"I was absolutely petrified," he that weekend. And if I win the next weekend, then I'm the best man. All

recalled. "I already had a car licence and I was the British 125 champiwe want to do is kick some Australian ass and beat the Americans'." on at the time, but I would have Before that is possible, Hodgson must ensure that he is as comfortfailed if I hadn't spent two days at a training school learning to ride on able on the Ducati as Fogarty was. "It takes weeks, and many, many the roads. laps," Hodgson said. "I'm about a stone heavier than Carl, and a lot Tell me to ride over a settee and I could do it, because I've got bal-

ance, and that's what I do. But I had taller, and there are thousands of to learn to do all my 'life savers' permutations of the settings you can every time I braked, otherwise they have on a bike." His acquaintance with the Ducati class you as being dead and fail you. began in San Marino a few days be-The guy who had to follow me on the test recognised me from pho-tographs in *Motor Cycle News* and fore Christmas, when he performed 45 laps and came within 1.5 seconds couldn't believe it, and I signed an of the lap record on the Misano cir-

His knees might have been knocking, but it was one occasion chine is on its way to Burnley for when they did not scrape the road.

autograph for the examiner after I

Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

machine before his contests with From being the man interviewed on fighting with my own players be-Fogarty and the rest over the 14 rounds of the title race, commenc- and having all these girls round me cent. That's how passionate I was Sublime potential in the novice ranks

Racing JOHN COBB

m ATT AS HAME Date:

最近是 医环境性病 中央的 1995年 1

The Cheltenham Festival's Sun ter just one outing over hurdles. start behind Nemuro. nce Chase and Arkie Iro phy have a surprisingly poor record in producing future Gold Cup and Champion Chase winners, but the list of entries published yesterday has a more productive function. Among the 61 entered for the Sun AJliance and 30 for the Arkle are weeks before the Festival.

Jack, Chief Rager and Sorbiere. The first-named, who has the look of a chaser, was Sorbiere who was similarly sent fencing by Andy Turnell af- promising in his only chase

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Super Rocky (Lingfield 1.40) NB: Blue Charm (Musselburgh 3.20)

several who have achieved lit-tle but are clearly expected to Fairway at Lingfield but then justify their entry fee in the six crashed out early in a better race at Kempton next time. Nigel Those that catch the eye in the Sun Alliance are Highland was a good third to Jibber The

Scots produce cold comfort

Scottish turf has kept frost free ever, and 36 of the scheduled 77 and kept jump racing on the runners were withdrawn. road, with vesterday's meeting at Ayr and today's card at Musselhurgh (where there is a 7.30am precautionary inspec- have all been abandoned due to tion) supplying the only alter-

native to the sand tracks. Many trainers were unhappy about the surface at Ayr, how- day's Towcester fixture.

2

LINGFIELD

HYPERION

1.40 Super Rocky 2.10 Mr Nevermind 2.40 Diego

3.10 Distinct Beauty 3.40 Firty Gertie 4.10 Dahiyah

Yesterday's Plumpton card, today's Nottingham meeting and tomorrow's Leicester card frost and snow and there will be

2 for the Arkle. André Trophy (Chetreham, 12 March) Liace Cashmere 9-2 Oraborge, 6-1 Arche Gasmen, 7-1 Centarly String, Ventana Carpon, 8-1 King Weh Gloy, Marindan Castle, 9-1 Tryng Agan, 12-1 Ask Tom, Capitain Wasdive, 14-1 others. 12-1 ASK form, Capitan (Native), 14-1 bit 53.
Sum Alflance Chaele (Chellenham, 13 March)
Llam Caphraint 6-1 Mr Mulligan, 7-1 St Mellion Fakriery, 8-1 Major Summit, 9-1 The Grey
Monik, 10-1 The Bit/Space Chaff, Naththen Lod.
11-1 Hill Of Tullow, 12-1 others inspections today for tomorrow's Windsor card and Thurs-

MUSSELBURGH

1.20 Unprejudice 1.50 GALLARDINE (nap) 2.20 The Laughing Lord 2.50 Houghton

HYPERION 3.20 Young Steven 3.50 Merry Rose (nb)

PRECAUTIONARY INSPECTION: 7.30mm COING: Good to Firm (Firm in places down the back samight).

Right-hand oval course with tight turns.

Reservoints in 6 miles east of Edinburgh on Al. Bus link from Edinburgh turn 6 miles ways, DAMLSSION; Cab 511; Tattersalls 56 (OAPs and unes accompanied under-16s free). CAR PARK: Free.

SIS RACING

tern given a success ratio of 21.0% and a lose to a 51 level stake of 50.70; Mrs M Re 15 winners, 53 numers, 28.7%, 43.11; P Montainh - 10 winners, 63 numers, 15.0%, +5.121.89;
 N Timbler - 9 winners, 29 numers, 31.5%, +52.37.

N Timber - 9 winners, 29 trainers, 31.5%, +52.27.

Ill LAADING JOCKEST'S 2 Scorey - 17 wins, 113 rides, 15%, 458.31; T Reed - 13 wins, 98 rides, 13.3%, +585.8; P Nivers - 11 wins, 59 rides, 18.6%, +516.10; G NeCourt - 10 wins, 98 rides, 25.3%, -53.10.

WILLYFORD NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 LONG-DISTANCE EUNIVERS: Master Of the Eock (2.20) has been sent 260 miles by J articled 2 m 4f Pennsity Value 52 490

1.20 LOGANLEA NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,679

222-16	QUEENS CONSUL (64) (D) (Mass Heather L Dawson) B Rodwell 6 11 7	R 50pp
0560	MEAROOT (19 U P Signey) O Notan 5 11 5	L Wy
PO-	LOCH GARBON CLESS MAS R O Course F Murphy 6 11 5	
58	MISTER CASUAL SD (Nes O F Cuffern) W Reed 7 11 5	
	MODERAL DM O Hepterngton (Packagng) Lat) F Weston 5 11 5	
U06060	MY HANDY MAN (6) 6 Best; R Man 5 11 5	
64	UNPREALDINE (18) (BDL Partners) M Hammond 5 11 5	"Alle C Bounter (
PP	WILD BROOK (80) Okis S A Braman Mrs S Bramal 6 11 5	Berl
	CLOVER CEL (8) (Keys) M L Brown) B Esson 5 11 0	
	PRINCESS MAKENE (42) () Clayon)) J O'Noll 7 11 0	
155	FRENCH PROJECT (104) (D) The Steeplechesing Mrs 5 Bedburne 4 10	9 _AWAL
	ELECULAR THE REDEL (USA) (82) (M Denna-Coale Shipate) M Hammond	

BETTING: 5-2 Queens Consel, 4-1 Upprajodice, Europich The Robet, 6-1 Princeds Marine, 8-1 Prench Project, 10-1 Clover GM, Monfelf, 14-1 others 1985: Thomfort Galle 6 III IZ L Wys 3-1 MM K Eastmoyt 14 nm Politics Guide FORM GUIDE

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FORM G PRINCESS MAURES, who made the harms in both har hustle cases in 1999-94 when barred by Many Raveley, firshed fifth to Duke Of Perth on her return to jumping at Heatism just believe Christmas. Her navanged to a EARO fire for Innjo Chieff and a seven-day ban for dearing podery Alan Roche, both being bound
gually of schooling and condending in judics. D'Reaf seet: "I'm very disappointed - I think the must be a
jude. She set doing her best sind her owner backque her. I admit a floated bad on the film but what other
sety would you note a seven-buttong horse round Heatern. She has been in beining for about a month and
dich't get the titp." Princess Mastres, wither of three Reaf saces in 1994, will be much heppier month the
sharp course d'an at Heatern and, sure to progress with their suring under her belt, our open her husding
account. Questes Conseat, survier up in her three races lest season, gained a self-carned first success when
deleasing Dutton Drages her lengtes at Hegicola in Newmorber on her return. Following with a soft of a lag
field behind Weit Weit Wester at Wooseler. She could go close despite a nine-week absence. Earollist, the
Peabel won delement at Condiscot in June and at Doncaster in October for Reg Alebuart's stable, thenging hands be £10,000. The four-year-old, now trained by Machy Hearmond, will be the better for his first
of a large Seld behind Weision at Carecrus in Neverther and could soon find a hustile race. Sue Basibushe's
the apputation Preseath Project made a winning nurding debut at Ballenhole in September but fit frained

istion French Project made a wirming hundery debut at Ballinsche in September but Stephe TA FOI DALKETH NOVICE CHASE (CLASS F) \$4.200 added 2m

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- 1	4	513-044	SALLARDAN (10) (S P Hudson) B Rotmes 7 11 3	R Supple
- 1	5	/BZP45	LIVE AND LET LIVE (43) PAIS C G Greg Mas LV Ressel 12 11 3	A Thornton
ı	6	2-34FF2	PARLIACCIO (43) (A.D. Seward Af Hammand 8 11 3	
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1			- 7 declared -	
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- [19	95: Wee R	ver 6 11 10 J Collegnan 4-7 (G M Moore) 11 ran	
ſ			CANAL COURSE	

A failer in his first two chases. PAGELACCED frashes a distance claim of the third when an eight-length con-ner-up behind his Wey or a three-miler has an expess ago. That effort will have helped to restore Paglico-cio's confidence and he can show the way hards here. Middy Hammond's runner is back at the renament the body but his three seconds were timber last term included one at the tips. Change deburant Eurobalds greate consolute victories in handsorp burdles at Segligisted and Westerby last Reason, and wis beston only a length and a quarter by Jympon Johnny at Relso the time before last. He is a belief and for this game, however, and would prefer some out in the ground. Pagliscoto might have more to fear from Galiberdian.

whose two hurdle wars lest esseen ancluded one here and who will improve as a mean of a fourth to Lord Domes at Castenck 10 days ago.

2.20 HARPERRIG HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m Penalty Value £2,238

0201.P. TOPFORMER (257) (A D Hetherington Packaging) Ltd F Vision: 9 10 9 _____ A Dubbin 5260-34 THE LAUGHBYG LORD (41) (Peter J S Russell Mee L V Russell 10 10 7 _____ A Tilomiton 10-3355 GERMAN LESEND (25) (O) ID G Pyde) D Lamb 8 10 5 _____ A Hieroten (7) - 6 sectioned - SETTING: 4-5 Marker Of The Rock, 3-1 Able Player, 7-2 The Lengthing Lord, 7-1 German Lagued,

15-2 last Supposen, 14-1 Topformer 1995: Tronchette 6 11 11 P Wen 6-1 U J O'Neilli 9 fan

1995: Tronchette 6 11 11 P Neen 6-1 U J O'Nem 9 ran
FORM GRIDE

MASTER OF THE ROOK can complete a low-ower — and extend his season's mily to five. Although twice
placed over the larger obstacles has season, my relaction don't really take to the larger obstacles but this
has proved to be a blessing in deaguee, as he has tended hendition nurdies at Sodgefield, Master Resen.
Catletic and over course and deserved. Mester of the Rook is up to be from less time but is sail familied to
comy on the good work. Able Player, successful here at two end a holf miles, won over this distance to
Newcaste the time before last — Segment Logland as lengths book in such and 6th better in. See Bramati's
men-year-old could do no better then both, at 22 lengths, to The last Fing over the same course and
distance on his most recent appearance but may be the one to bustle up Mester Of The Rock here, Just
Sepposition on on last ground at Wesherby last season, following with two seconds, and an't out of a even
if to his firsthed unplaced in both outings this term.

TO SEE KE MANY CIP HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) \$5100

conditions were so cold."

cuit. "I was pleased, considering it

was a completely new hike and the

A road version of the red ma-

L	2.50	added 2m 4f Penalty Value £3,525
1	123124	HOUGERTON (26) (DI) (BF) (Gordon Brown) J H Jahnson 10 12 0P Carberry
2	316-F22	PRINTIPAN (CAR) (CE) (CE) (CP) (CP) Paries) N Tribby 7 11 7
3	3P-359U	WALT YOU THERE (USA) (18) (U) Glamet Alexander H Alexander 11 11 0 All S Swiers
4	5250-34	THE LAUGHING LIDED (41) (D) (P) 5 Russell Mes L V Russell 10 11 0
		RAPID MOVER (18) (C) Ohis J McFadyen-Hurseyl O Notes 9 10 8 Wyer
		PRINCIPAL COLLEGE AND STREET BOTH DESCRIPTION OF STREET BOTH A WHAT CO

- 6 doctored -PETDNE: 2-1 Comming Sule, 11-4 Peritan, 7-2 Rapid Mover, 4-1 Houghton, 10-1 West You Ybord 1995: Bussing School 8 11 5 8 Storey 2-1 (C Parley) 8 um

FORM GRIDE.

Channing Gale you over course and distinct 18 days ago, defeating Partition a length and a quarter of the Cross Common unserted three tences but when looking a pertian water. With a 3th advantage, Puttern, who finetized strongly that day and is in first-time bletters here, can bust them both. Rad Mover, who was going well and held every chance when he departed, he is 3th put with which Committee Gale, though he is no better in with Purtan. My selection is a course where over both hurdles and fences. What You There handsome and her his river at the highly he Common Gales, thought and when a 3th 3th 3th that the time but he content of selection is a course where over both hurdles and fences. What You There bundered and but his index at the hinth in Chammag Cale's spec here when a 33-1 shot and may not be much of a canger even if he completes that time. Houghting would should these if back next his best even under 12st. But he hish t bean successful since gaing in at Sedgefield in September on his enappearance and finished again lengths which of Wan You See when both were well betten in Dark Cell's race on a return to the Co Durban back.

Ľ	7.20	added 2m 4f Penalty Value £2,490
1	113452	WILD ROSE OF YORK (6) (0) (Mrs Mand Monterth) P Montesth 5 11 10 & Cubill (7)
2	50-0412	BLUE CREATION (18) (CD) DAIS M C LIMITARY) MITS 6 Bracthurns 6 11 9
3	535	SAYRAF DANCER (25) (Done Tuckneth Mrs A Neugrison 7 11 1
a	00-064	SHEEND THOUGHT (USA) (41) Premand Anderson Green) C Parker 5 10 12 B Shore
5	0030	YOUNG STEVEN (18) (A.) Thursood) W Kemp 5 10 11S McDowski
6	DO/5P2	TRE-TRANSM (USA) (57) (M C Boyd) R Allen 7 10 10
7		VONETALINES DAVICER (1,066) (G S Brown) Mass L V Russell 8 1D 6A Thornton -7 destared -
		Blue Checus, 3-1 Trienminus, 4-1 Saysaf Dancer, 5-1 Shraved Thought, 7-1 Young Stoven

1995: Talos 7 10 8 0 J Moffatt 6-1 (D Moffato) 11 mm

FORM ELEDE ton eight lengths over course and distance in early De-Arter semming Triemation eight inights beer course and distance in early December, BLIE CHARMI stayed on strongly when a flour-length second behind Lintathen also over this tro here 18 days ago, Sue Brad-burne's charge would be more at home over a longer trip or softler track but can still got book into the without's enclosure here. Afternam was showing improved form when beaken by Blue Chern and is 8th better of bert the winner looks set to confirm superiority. Wild Rose Of York landed a nonce event at Heatham in September and a couple of sellers at Relso - in Decober and November. She finished tame after that lattest with and again when favourite and implaced to Hillioni Blues it Newcostle this month but was beaten three lengths by Orchatama at Sedgofield test Wednesday and may again play second fieldle this erms.

Bellection: BLUE CHARMI

3 50 PENICUIK NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m Penal-

1			
	445/021	SERVED SCENERY (43) (c) (Scottes) Secretary J H Johnson B 11 11 P Co	rbe
2	AP615-D	OVERNMENT (295) (D) (Lady Wallard) V Thompson B 11 11	aque
3	PP/2	FARMER'S RAND (45) (K Morton) 8 Blosh 8 11 5	ang (
4	02	MERRY ROSE (43) (The Brave Partnersho) M Hammond B 115	nor i
5	PP05-30	SAND KING (25) (Mass L V Russiell) Miss L V Russell 10 11 5A Th	omi
		- 5 declared -	

Rang 1995: Countonis 9 11 5 A Maguire 4-1 (J K Johnson) 14 can

FORM GUDE.

Grand Scenery got home by a length and a quarter from MERRY ROSE over two and a hell miles here before Christmas but my selection, who was making his fending bow that day, can average the defeat with a 6th advantage. Merry Rose, who had only one huntle run—at Reason in Norember—as only as and a copen to further approximent. He ran second in an Insh point-to-point in 1994 and will be at home own the times miles — is remark which also applies to Grand Scenary. Fermen's Hand, a 50-1 shot when betten four lengths by Forbedeer Time at Cetterick (3m 15) before Christmas on his first run for ages, looks by far the heat at the remarket.

4.20 TRIPLEPRINT STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (CLASS H) £2,000 added 2m Penalty Value £1,551

	for the til mines against this i country tolde to	
	BASINGROFT (rl A Johnson) Alies S Williamson 6 11 5	
4-30	HIGHLAND SPIN (45) (Laure) (Leisure) Limited) Mrs M Reveley 5 11 5	R Hod
	PIPES OF PAN (H H Johnson Jr) Miss S Williamson 8 11 5.	
00	BOWLAND PARK (10) Mas Stella Barday) E Alson 6 11 0	Callege
	CELTIC COMMA (Mass Reservery Jeffreys) W Reed 5 11 0	
	GENTLE GAMESLER (James Baster) R Allen 5 11 0	S Meirose
	HEDA'S PET (Peter McMehon) R McKeller 6 11 0	Cabill
	LEICHTEN LASS (Mrs Sugan Contest) J Charton 5 11 0	R Stor
	CHEF OF KHORASSAN (FR) (Middlehem Park Racing ID S Kettlewell 4 1)	
	COLONEL GEORGE (Mrs Sandra Scott Bell) Mrs 6 Brarrell 4 10 7	Bur
	JUST LIKE DAD & Brises) M Tochunter 4 10 7	B Hard
D	WAR WHOOP (10) (Guy Reed) C Thoman 4 10 7	N Horrocks
	WHITEHEL FLYER (Withers) Welfare FC) P Monteith 4 10 7	
	- 13 declared -	

ETTING: 11-4 Highhad Spin, 5-1 Colonel George, 11-2 War Whoop, 7-1 Ceitic Cumma, 8-1 Just The Dad, 10-1 Bowland Park, 12-1 Chief of Khorsmann, Gentle Gembler, 14-1 others 195: Tom Brodie 5 11 S A Magure 2-1 () K Johnson) 15 ran PORSE GLIDE

HERKLAND SPRY's expenence will stand him in good stand with 10 of his dozen male making their debuts. The Dunbeath getting, a drifter in the betting when fourth of 14 to Your Risk on his introduction at Southwell in May, work off issource at Marker Rasen in November on his return, functing a 10-length that of 18 behind Pence Junt. He finished unpliced algorithm Time Rive & Collected but nouth be worth another chance. Warr Vitarop and Bowland Parks were both well bearen behind Gods Squad at Cestenick but are both open to improvement, especially War Whoop, who was making his debut on the occasion. All the same, one of the newcomers may provide most danger and William Read's Calific Commas could be the one. She 9 by that good jumping see Calor. Cone and is a full-sester to bumper winner Ben Oliver and win-

■ Sarah Bainbridge is recovering well at her pareots' home in Witton-le-Weir, near Bishop Auckland, after hreaking her leg oo the Middleham gal-lops earlier this month. The conditional jump jockey, 20, who is based at Patrick Haslam's yard, fractured her tibia and fibula and also smashed her ankle. After the accident, which happened in thick fog, she was driven to Catterick Military Hospital. She was later transferred to Northallerton Friaridge Hospital. "I've had two screws put into the leg and two into my ankle," said Sarah, who has had one winner on the flat but has yet to record her first soccess over obstacles. "I will probably miss the rest of the jomps season as I have been told it will be three mooths before I can ride again."

RESULTS

1.10: 1. NORTHERN CHARMER (R Ganith

1.10; 1. NORTHERN CHARMER (R Canity)
4-1; 2. Shonara's Way 11-10 fav, 3. Zuboon
4-8, 8 ren, 1, 24-2. (E Askon, Longon), Yotes;
6-4.50; £1.10, £1.70, £1.10, DF; £3.60, CSF;
£3.77, Tro: £4.90, NRS: Badd Quest, Charly Craseder, Gistro Of Ayr, Gold Bits, Jubran,
Polly Star, Supreme Soviet.
1-40: 1, STASH THE CASH (A Dobbre) 13-8; 2, Cantago Valley 10-1; 3, Give Best 51:
8 tax, 8 ran, 6, 7, 01 Dyer, Inventometel, Tohec
£2.40; £1.10, £2.90, DF; £7.00, CSF; £16.37,
Inc: £7.30, NRS: Astral Weeks, Colorful Ambition, Crackful Farm, Cyssis 61f, Fasser, Highland Way, Martha Buckle, Shrewf Thought.
2.10: 1, JUST FRANKE (P Niver) 3-1; 2,
Califtmene Cloud 5-2; 3, Cross Emmon 6-4 faw, 4 ren, 8, 3, (Mrs M Rescley, Salbum),
7otec £3.20; £2.80, DF; £3.60, CSF; £10.16,
NRS: Port in A Storm, Prespiece Run.
2.40: 1, NAUGHTY FUTURE (A Roche) 10-

2.40: 1. NAUGHTY FUTURE (A Roche) 10-11 fav; 2. Bold Elect 3-1; 3. Robera 8-1. 10 mm. 1, 11. U J O'Neil, Parntill, Toda 1.60; (1.30, £1.80, £2.50, DF £7.40, CSF £4.44, Táo; £7.50, NRS: Ballyalia Castle, Car-ley Lad, Cabu Glant, David's Way, Kings Lane, Noosa Sound. 3.10: 1. STORMY CORAL (8 Storey) 8-11

fav; 2. Roctor Run 5-1: 3. Gale Water 33-1. 4 run. 15, 10. (C Perfect, Lockerbich, Totac £1.80; £1.70. DF: £2.20, CSF: £4.79. Tre-test £58.78. NR: East Houston, Frinch's Gen, Furny Old Game, Golden Fiddle, Native Mony, Sallor Jun.

Salor Jan.

3.40: 1. LOCHNAGRAIN (P Niver) 8-1.1 for.

2. Salba 2-1; 3. Robel (Ung B-1, 5 rap. 4, 20, (Wrs M Reveley, Salburn). Tobec £1.50; £1.10; £1.70, DF: £2.00, CSF: £2.65. NRs: Choaty, Major Bell, Sévoy. 4.10: 1. CUTTHROAT KID IG Colub 8-11

key, 2. Brug in Trouble 5-4; 3. Ambleside Hervest 12-1. 3 ran. 7, 10. (Mrs M Reveley, Sathum). Tota: £1.80. UP; £1.10. CSF: £1.94. Nrs: Abbot Of Farness. Celtic Breezs: Crummy's Saga, Ezzdgen. Quadpot: £23.00. Place 5: £25.12. SOUTHWELL

1.30: 1. CABCHARGE BLUE () Wester 11-1; 2. Kerinoka 3-1 for; 3. Indicina 9-2. 2 rss. 2. ½. (f.) (Nagriton, Openn), Tote: £17.30; £2.00, £1.60, £1.40, Dr. 5:29; 70. CSF; £41.48. Treast: £156.72. Tro: £37.70, NR: Maojin. Treast 1156.72 for: 537.70. NF: Meedia.

2.00: 1. SQUARE DEAL (C Teegys) 1-2
fax: 2. Mergaretrose Anna 20-1; 2. Hever
Solf Eagle 12-1. 10 ran. 4, 3. (S R
Bowling, Manistel). Total: £1.60; £1.10,
£4.50, £1.70. DF: £7.60. CSF: £13.25. Trio:
£23.70. NR: Young Frederick.

2.30: 1. BOLD ARISTOCRAT (F Lynch) 7-1; 2. Assessme Venture 7-4 x far, 3. Eliza Ledger 9-2. 5 ran. 7-4 x far, 4 The Savoy (5th). ½. ¼. 4. R. Holistierd, L. Longdon, Totte 29-20; 52-40, £1.10. DF: £9-30. CSF: £18.77. 3.00: 1. BADAWI () Quarti 6-1; 2. Up-or Moont Cleir 11-2; 2. Mizyan 13-2. 13 ran. 5-1 fav La Menorguna. 11, 4. (N Bab-bage, *Chettenhami*. Tote: £5.50; £2.20, £3.20, £1.70. DF: £19.80, CSF: £39.19, To-cast: £210.51. Trio: £43.20.

3.30: 1. STAND 7ALL [Deen McNecwn] 3-1 fav; 2. White Sorrel 5-1: 3. Miles 11-2. 9 ram. ¼, hd. (C Thornton, Mcdietern), 10: 64.10; £2.00, £2.80; £2.70. 0°: £12.30, CSF: £17.68, Tricast: £71.87, Tno: £15.90. 4.00: 1. BALLWICK (M Fermon 8-1; 2. Burnblefoot 4-1; fee; 3. Effpetite 7-1. 9 ran. 4-1; f fav jon-rets. Hd, 17-2; (N Graham, Newmarket). Totat £11.60: £2.90, £1.40, £1.90. DF: £20.30. CSF: £38.22. Treast: £216.83. Trio: £53.40.

4.30: 1. BRCHESTÉR LASS (CTeague) 9-2: 2. The Meatral 10-1; 3. Moody 5-1. 9: ram. 7-2 taw MB Dencer (14th). 57t.-67, 6. (S R Bowning, Marsafield). Totac: £5.60; £2.10, £4.30, £3.00. DF: £21.70, CSF: £43.40. Th-cast: £211.60. Tdo. £20.50. Jackpot: Not won. Poot of £39,312.68 car-ned forward to Linglett symprow. Quadpot: £19.50. Place 6: £37.57. Place 5: £18.74. Place 6: £37.57.

THE INDEPENDENT Horse Racing Results 0839 - 111 171 Commentary 0839 - 111-175



- a decurrer -BETING: 11-4 Spuncer's Revenge, 3-1 Dancing Luryer, 7-2 Mr Never-tokel, 5-1 What A Hightmare, 8-1 Cacabaro, 8-1 Eastleigh, 16-1 others 2.40 SULKY MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100 added 1m 2f

DOSO-0 LONELY VIEL (LD) K Commigner Brown 4 B 10 A Clark S 046-045 EAST-LESH (LL) (CD) R Hollmarked 7 8 9 A Wigner 7 1005 CHARZARO (150) (CD) R VOISTIN 4 B 6 D G 6669 9

3.10 CAROLE BLACKBURN HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 edded 3YO 1m 2f GOING: Standard, STALLS: 5f & 1m outside, remainder inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 5L III Left-hand, sharp course (Equatack surface). Course is SE of town on P2028. Lingfield station adjoins course. ADMISSION: All enclosures 59. GAR PARK: Club E3; rest free. BLINEERED FIRST TIME: Double Jeopardy (2.40). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: China Castle (3.10) WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: China Castle (3.10) won at Wolverhampton on Wednesday.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Lovebird (2.40) & Thoratom Estate (3.10) have been sent 270 miles by M Johnston from Middleham, N Yorkshire; China Castle (3.10) sent 270 miles by P Haskart from Middleham, N Yorkshire; Serper Rocky (1.40) sent 238 miles by R Bustiman from Linton, W Yorkshire. 10 SCOOL MATAN EXPRESS (4) 9 Feet / 10 Scott of Albinium weight: 7st 10th. The Randicap weights: Signs R Us & Lond Ellergowen 7st 7th. Tenan Express 7st 3th.

BETTIRE: 2-1 Chilen Castle, 7-2 Distinct Beauty, 9-2 Thorntoon Estatle, 8-1 Hottipe Hostillers, Uoni, 8-1 Sovereign Prince, Flabud, 20-1 others 1.40 LANDAU HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,100 1 10600-0 SPENDER (21) (CD) P Hams 7 10 0 1 Shack (3) A 2 305-640 HAMMAR'S USIVER (10) (D) C Marry 4.9 12 M Televis 5 015242: HEVER 600L'S SAR (75) (D) 7 J Maghtan 4.9 10.1 Witness 5 4 1005-1 Super ROCKY (27) (CD) R Besumen 7.9 4.H Bastinum (S) 1 5 503116 HALF TONE (43) (CD) R M Rower 4.9 1 D Biggs 3 6 002-020 DISTANT DRIVASTY (S) (CD) B Penno 6 B 10 ... S Sundan 7 400-660 SUPERLO (BE1) (10) (D) J Bridge 4 7 13 ... J Quinn 2 -7 deciared - 8 ETYRNS: 7-2 Super Rocky, 4-1 Helf Tone, (stone Golf Star, 5-1 Species, 13-2 Distant Dynasty, 8-1 Hammeh's Usbar, 16-1 Supertao 3.40 HANSOM LIMITED STAKES (CLASS E) £4,200 added 7f 31-0402 FOUR OF SPADES (5) (CD) P Exerc 5 9 13... 2.10 DOG CART CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,200 added 1m 452203- PRESENT SITURTION (43) (CD) Lord Humangton 5 9 7

4.10 PHAETON HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,450

added 6f | Solided 65 | Control of the Contro 000-005 SHARRES DOMAN (A) R M Power 58 4 _____

- 10 declared -BETTPAR: 3-1 Auracias, 7-2 Dablysh, 5-1 Newington Butts, 6-1 Random, 13-2 Passy Gricots, 8-1 Staryant Downels, Rockaracker, 10-1 others

SUPER BOWL XXX: Two second-half interceptions hand Dallas a third title in four years, Matt Tench reports

O'Donnell lets down **Steelers**

In the huild-up to Super Bowl XXX it was surgest d to Neil O'Donnell, what looks like the bassist in a country and western group, that if he shaved his beard off it might improve his marketability. He declined the offer, and perhaps it was just as well. As the game itself showed, it will take more than a trip to the barbers to turn the Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback into

a superstar.
O'Donnell has endured more than his fair share of critics in six years with the Steelers, but as a key figure in their route to this vear's finale his supporters argued that he had now done enough to he regarded among the sport's élite. His performance in Sunday night's showpiece in Tempe made the suggestion seem ridiculous.

O'Donnell crowned a des-

perately unconvincing display with the two interceptions that settled a compelling, if some-what unsatisfying, Super Bowl, As a result the Dallas Cowboys won 27-17 to claim a third title in the last four years, but this was the least impressive of their recent triumphs and can only Certainly there was a stark complicate, rather than settle, contrast between O'Donnell's the debate surrounding the gifts (or lack of them) of their head coach, Barry Switzer.

into a game that should have been beyond them, and twice O'Donnell hijacked their hopes. There are occasions when quarterbacks are unfairly blamed for ceding possession, but there can be no denying O'Donnell's culpability.

In the third quarter the Steelers' attack was threatening an equalising score when the Steeler playcaller threw a bewildering pass straight into the hands of the Cowboys' Larry Brown. There wasn't a Steeler within 10 yards of him. Brown returned the ball to the Dallas 18-yard line and a couple of plays later Emmitt Smith plunged over to give the Cowboys a 20-7 lead.

Still the underdogs were not

minutes remaining they took possession on their 33, having cut the lead to 20-17. One of the great Super Bowl finishes seemed a possibility until O Donnell again intimidated by a posse of blitzing Cowboys, once more found Brown. This time the Dallas cornerback made it to the seven, and Smith's second short-range TD ended the contest.

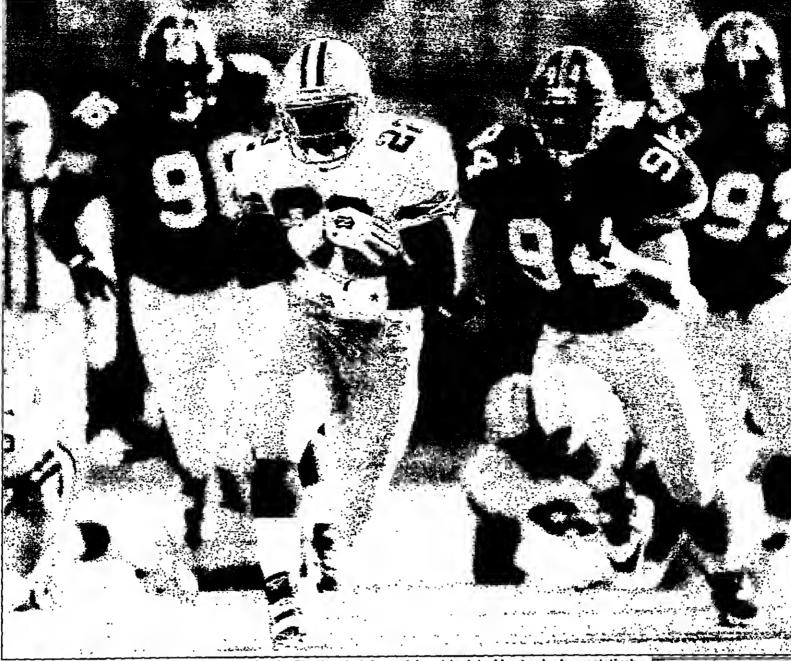
Bill Cowher, the Steelers head coach, was quick to con-sole his quarterback as they left the field. "I told him to look at the hig picture, not just this game. We wouldn't have been here without him," Cowher

All the same, O'Donnell's performance may prove expensive. His contract expires next month, and with an annual income of \$2.8m (£1.8m) is one of the less well rewarded of a lucrative calling. An impressive year suggested it was time for him to join the \$4m club, but his unhappy Sunday may change all that, and could even persuade the Steelers to allow him to move elsewhere,

work and that of Troy Aikman, his Dallas counterpart. Faced with much the same sort of pres-Twice in the second half the sure. Aikman displayed char-Steelers fought their way back acteristic poise in the pocket, either finding his man or throwing the hall away. His match return was a relatively modest 209 yards and cannot be said to have won the game. Crucially, he did not lose it eitber.

In a confusing and ultimately disappointing Dallas display Aikman's aplomb was probably the difference, but should not have been necessary. The Cowboys so utterly dominated the early stages that, for a while, it was difficult to see the game staying competitive until balf-

time, let alone the finish.
On his first carry Smith, freed by a block by Larry Allen on Greg Lloyd that should have carried its own assault charge. dashed for 23 yards. The Cow-



Contrasting fortunes: Emmitt Smith, pursued by the Pittsburgh defense (above) had, by his standards, a relatively subdued game even though he scored two touchdowns. Neil O'Donnell (below right) slumps in despair on the sidelines after his second interception cost Pittsburgh any chance of staging a comeback Photographs: Reuter

through the air, with Aikman happy to locate the underneath receiver when the Steelers shut down the deeper options. By the end of the first quarter the Cowboys, clearly at home in Arizona, were 10-0 ahead and apparently poised for another rout.

That the Steelers were able to mount a response speaks much for their heart, and also some shrewd coaching adjustments. Projected as the Cowboys' inferiors in just about every regard, they began to thwart Smith, largely thanks to the efforts linebacker Levon Kirkland. A scoring drive was limited to a field goal, and the next one, for done, and with four and a half thoys were no less successful the first time, produced a punt. Changed all that (though barn

Then, as the half came to a close, the Steeler offense be-latedly generated some momentum, culminating in a scoring reception from Yancey Thigpen with 17 seconds left that combined two unlikely scenarios: a perfectly thrown ball from O'Donnell and Deion Sanders being beaten for a touchdown.

At the break the Steelers were entitled to be delighted that they only trailed 13-7, and the sense that this might, stag-geringly, be a victory for the common people grew in the sec-ond half as they continued to thwart the Cowboy attack. O'Donnell's indiscretions

Morris's three-yard plunge kept the contest alive after the first one) but hardly alter the impression that the Cowboys under Switzer are considerably less threatening than under his predecessor, Jimmy Johnson.

Switzer has a reputation as a laid-back, players coach, but it is difficult to imagine a Johnson team having to take a time-out when Pittsburgh switched to the no-huddle offense, muffing a kick-off or fluffing Pittsburgh's onside kick. Switzer's Cowboys did all three on Sunday, and also failed to make the most of their awesome attacking armoury. (Smith rushed for just 49 yards.)

entertained no such doubts as they rallied round their leader afterwards. "I'm proud of this team and I'm especially happy for coach Switzer." Brown said. We owe this to the man. Brown was voted the game's

Most Valuable Player, an arguable award given that his two game-breaking interventions were straightforward plays that required no great skill. Aikman and Kirkland would have been worthy alternatives, but from a game lacking in outstanding individual efforts it was probably a fitting selection.

The choice of the game's least valuable player was premanurally the Cowboy players sumably less difficult.



Wasps go back on road for **Pilkington**

Rugby Union STEVE BALE

Wasps could afford a certain smugness at being the only side in yesterday's either/or Pilkington Cup quarter-final draw at Twickenham who knew for sure they were in the last eight, but this was wiped from their faces when they were presented with yet another away tie. On 24 February, last season's

beaten finalists must visit the winners of the Nottingham-Gloucester tie postponed with six others last Saturday With the Cup taking precedence over the league, these matches will cause wholesale First Division postponements by

going ahead on 10 February when the Second, Third and Fourth will also be affected. If league position means anything. Wasps can expect to be at Kingsholm.

vanns vata

ompiet !

Wasps' fifth-round tie at Win-nington Park, a 57-0 reward for the tortuous six bours it took them to reach Cheshire from London last Friday, was the only one completed to schedule. This made it 800 miles of cup travelling already this season to add to the 1,600 of last season while they were en route to meet Bath at Twickenham.

Indeed, it is nearly three years since Wasps were last favoured with a home draw. Since that semi-final defeat by Harlequins they have ventured as far west as Exeter and as far north as Newcastle, where Quins still have to win to qualify for the doubtful pleasure of a quarter-final at Saracens or, more likely, Leicester. Bath, the holders, will have a

ferocious derby at Bristol if the West Country giants win at Wakefield and Bedford respec-

The pursuit of anglophile foreigners willing to earn themselves some sterling picked up yesterday when Olivier Roumat the outstanding French lock who reached the Currie Cup final with Natal during the South African season, was linked with Wasps where his compatriot Philippe Sella may

also end up.
Philoneton cur quarter-finals: Leed London trish v West Harbehool or Cover Notingham or Goucester v Wasps, Leice

Questions of Sport



£40,000 to be won

Today we are giving you another sporting chance of an instant win. In Saturday's paper, there was a Questions Of Sport multi-choice scratch card which, if you answer three sporting questions correctly, gives you the chance of an instant cash prize from £1 to £1,000.

You don't have to be an obsessive fan to play - a good general sporting. knowledge should suffice. But remember, you only get one chance to answer each question, so if you are in any doubt, check it out. The card contains eight games so you can play daily through to Friday 2

February. As well as the daily instant cash prizes there is a weekly accumulator prize

HOW TO PLAY

Today we are playing the section of the card dated Tuesday 30 January. Below are three sporting questions, each with three possible answers coded as A. B and C. Scratch off your answer to Question Thirteen, either A.B or C in the Q13 column then repeat for Q14 and Q15.

THE QUESTIONS Q13 Who scored Everton's winner in last season's FA Cup final?

A: Duncan Ferguson Oaniel Amokachi C: Paul Rideout

Q14 Which of the following players has not won the tennis Grand Slam (winning Wimbledon the Australian, French and US Opens in the same year)?

A. Steffi Graf B: Martina Navratilova C: Rod Laver

Q15 Which country does George Weah, Milan's European Footballer of the Year, come from?

A: Nigeria B: Ghana C: Liberia

THE INDEPENDENT

Scratch off ONE letter only for each

of £5,000 to be won.

IMPORTANT

If you reveal three identical cash amounts on any one game section on any one day, you win that amount. After you have played the last game on your card, total the cash amounts you have revealed. If your total is £5,000 you win or share the £5,000 accumulator prize. You could also win today's instant prize of £100 by revealing an astensk.

if you have revealed three identical cash amounts of £5 or under, DO NOT PHONE. Take the claim coupon OR a piece of plain paper with your name and address on it PLUS the relevant section of the card to one of the newsagents listed below. For prizes over £5, phone 01254 683666 (Insh Republic 0044 1254 683666) between 10.30am and 4pm

Participating newsagents: WH Smith, John Menzies, Forbuoys, Martins/RS McColl, Dillons, Gibbs, Macs. Supercigs, United News Shops, Star News, K Balfour, Eason, GT News, Paperchain - Village Store, Paper

IF you have any difficulty redeeming your card and coupon for a prize send both to: Independent Questions Of Sport claims, PO Box 60, Burnley,

RULES

1. No purchase necessary. Cards are freely aveidable from newsagents or by sending a large see to: Independent Questions Of Sport Card Request, PO Box 41. Blackburn X, 882 64G.

see to: Independent (Justice III). Request, PO Box 41, Blackburn X, 882 6AG.
One card per request.

If the process for each game will be evanded to the player or players making a successful claim.

All claims are subject to sortiny and cards must be intact to be eligible for a proce. Cards with printing errors are void.

Winners must agree to the publication of their names and photographs in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday.

Should more process be claimed than are available in any processor, for any reason, a simple draw will take place for the proce.

Resons under 15 years old, employees of Newspaper Publishing plc, Mirror Group.
Europhit Promotions Ltd., Newspaper Publishing plc, allowed to play.

The Editors' decisions are final in all matters relating to the games. No correspondence can be entered into.

be entered into. Newspaper Publishing pic reserve the right to stop the game at any time and change the conditions.

QUESTIONS OF SPORT CLAIM COUPON

Tuesday 30 January 1996 To claim prizes up to £5 DO NOT PHONE

Take this coupon to any of the participating Newsagents listed who will give you your prize instantly.

POSTCODE

TELEPHONE .. To the Newsagent: Please check the card is correct and give the reader the value of their prize. Send this coupon or details supplied on plain paper together with the winning card to your head office for full redemption.

London Marathon record

Athletics MIKE ROWBOTTOM

This year's London Marathon will be the biggest in the event's 16-year history. A record num-ber of entries - 39,000 - have been accepted for the race on 21 April, of whom an estimated 27,000 are expected to finish.

The event is now at its limits in terms of participants, ac-cording to Alan Storey, the event's general manager.

Taking the course into no

count - Cable Street for instance, is only 13 feet wide - we are up to our maximum level as far as safely is concerned. Next year we will probably get an even greater number of entries, but such is the price of success."

Atthough ou participating runners have yet been named. Dave Bedford, the event's international co-ordinator, forecasts a memorable race. " believe this year's race will be of higher international quality than last year's and that of 1989," he said. "And I think most people agree that those were the best so for in international terms. Meanwhile Flora, who have

secured the event for the next three years, have put in a total of for towards their Marathon involvement this year. There will be a number of new elements in the 1996 race,

including a challenge to all professional football clubs north and south of the border to enter teams in club colours on a competitive basis. Over 100 clubs have accepted. Elite runners, and others selected by the organisers, will

have their progress charted through silicon chips worn on their shoelaces which will transmit information every time they cross special mats which will be placed at five-kilometre intervals on the course. Chris Maddocks became the

second Briton to win pre-selection for this summer's Olympic Games when he was named yesterday for the 50km walk. The 38-year-old, from Dawlish in Devon, will be competing in his fourth Games. The first athlete selected was Vicky Lupton in the women's 10km walk.

Britain on verge of excellence

BILL COLWILL

Great Britain's Olympic qualifying campaign went according to plan in Barcelona, albeit without the services of two very senior players and also the captain. Jason Lasiett, on the final day. Russell Garcia, the 1988

Olympic gold medallist who had been expected to play the key midfield role at his own club venue, was stricken down with gastro-ententis before the tournament began and Julian Halls. the iron man in the defence, missed out on all the games.

The absence of two key players clearly put a strain on the squad, in particular oo John Shaw and Soma Singh. Their coach, David Whitaker, said: "I was unable to rest them as I

pleased with the players' attitude and strength. The pressure in a round-robin competition is very challenging, but we were unbeaten. We are potentially a very good team. We dominated every game at times but allowed some teams to come back at us. We do not finish as clinically as, say, the Dutch or the Australians, but we have time to work on that."

Certainly, there is a need for Britain to make more of the chances they create and too much reliance is put on the ability of specialist corner striker Calum Giles. The Havant striker again responded to the challenge, being second top scorer

with eight goals in a total match time of just under 21 minutes. With an unbeaten run of 17 temporary experiment, there would have liked. They both re- internationals since the end of will be no offside in hockey.

sponded to my full satisfaction." November, the squad will now rest until the opening of the new Milton Keynes stadium on 24 March, when England were to play India. But following the announcement by the Indian coach, Cedric D Souza, after the last game in Barcelona that India would send an under-21 side and ex-internationals, the Hockey Association president, Robin Elliott, said: "We have no interest in playing other than the full national squad. If that is the

case, then we will look to get another country of equal quality." Following the goalless draw between India and Malaysia, which was suspiciously lacking in commitment, the Canadian vicepresident, Don Patterson, has lodged a complaint with the International Hockey Federation. Starting on 5 August, as a

Millie keeps brothers at bay

ice hockey STEVE PINDER

Ice on the roads may have caused some games to be called off because teams were unable to travel, but two games kept the fans warm as Newcastle Warriors versus Nottingham Panthers and Slough lets against Fife Flyers produced exciring draws.

Slough's 3-0 start against Fife was due to a brotherty hattrick, Gary Stefan's two goals complemented by one from his

younger brother Joe. Fife pulled back to 3-3 at the end of the first period, and the second period

exchange goals until, with two minutes left, Joe Stefan scored to make it 9-8. With 90 seconds minutes into the period. remaining, Les Millie, who comes from a Scottish ice hockey dynasty, proved that brotherhood is not everything by scoring the equaliser for a 9.9

final result. Newcastle and Nottingham

kept their match tighter but the game was just as back and forth. with the score 4-4 at the end of saw the sides swap goals with Slough ending up 6-5 leaders. The two sides continued to the second period. With defence crucial in the third period, it looked as if Mike Blaisdell, the looked as if Mike Blaisdell, the Nottingham player-coach, had taken the points with a goal two

> The Panthers defended en masse but, for the second week in a row, Newcastle's Scott Morrison decided the outcome of the match with a short handed goal with minutes left for the 5-5 final score.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The golden age of Welsh rugby produced many flamboyant stars but also some solid, dependable ones, into which category Steve Fenwick falls. After a fine debut at Parc des Princes in 1975 - he scored a try, a conversion and a drop goal as Wales achieved a record 25-10 victory in Pans the Bridgend centre went on to win 30 caps, a Welsh record for

the position until last year. Fenwick faced England seven times, losing only at Twickenham in 1980. He toured with the Lions in 1977 and twice won the Welsh Cup with Bndgend, dislocating a shoulder in the 1978 final but still being named man of the match for his 15 first-half points. Away from rugby, Fenwick en-



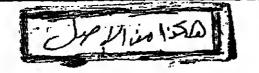
Steve Fenwick

joyed success as a businessman. He quit teaching in 1977 to join Tom David, a fellow Wetsh international, in forming Tripla Crown Chemicais, an industrial supply company. The company has since been sold and is now part of the giant Repsol group.

Today Fedwick, 44 and marned with two children, is chief executive of his former Bridgend club. It is a position unimaginable when he joined Cardiff's Blue Dragon rugby league team in 1981, which at the time barred him from returning to union.

..."I enjoyed rugby league and when I packed in playing I did not really miss being involved;" he said. "But Bridgend asked me to_ help when they were going through a sticky patch, and when they restructured two years ago I was appointed chief executive. The errival of professionalism has created one or two inevitable headaches, but I'm enjoying the

Jon Culley



Who would have predicted that the crucial match of the Five Nations would be played at Murrayfield next Saturday?

Until recently t thought that, if you bought one of Rupert Murdoch's dishes, that was that: you could watch overseas Test cricket, a Courage league match or whatever took your fancy without extra charge. I now discover you have to pay a monthly fee of £25 or so as well.

Black detective's

Starta Hood arrest

"How naive!" you may say. Well, perhaps. But, if independent tele-vision brings you programmes for nothing (the hidden costs being included in the price of the goods advertised). I do not see why Mr

Murdoch cannot do likewise.

I am putting off buying one of his dishes, and paying the monthly charges, for as long as I can. But, as soon as the Five Nations' Championship is on Sky Television and can he found nowhere etse, I shall know

that I have test the battle and that Mr Murdoch has won. At this point t shall have to acquire a Sky aerial and pay the fee.

Untess there is legislation, t cannot see any of the national rugby unions holding out against the fi-nancial temptations which Mr Murdoch will offer. Nor can I see the politicians passing legislation to frustrate his plans. So tet us enjoy the Five Nations while we can.

A few weeks ago most observers expected France to heat England more easily than they did, and tre-land to defeat Scotland convincingly. Once again the competition has not let us down. The rugby may not have been particularly glorious. either in Paris or in Dublin. The championship itself is more inter-

esting than many thought it would be. For who would have predicted that perhaps the crucial match of the Five Nations would be played at Murrayfield next Saturday? Of the eight most recent encounters between the two countries at Edinburgh (1980-95) Scotland have won all. France have won all the Paris matches except tast year's. France narrowly defeated Scotland in the World Cup, but Scotland could eas-

ily have won themselves. Scotland have once again come up with a pair of very good hatf-backs in Gregor Townsend and Brian Redpath. But if halves alone won matches, Scotland would have secured the championship more often than they have - four times - since the last war. They have a marvellous runner in



on rugby

Townsend, but France have five notentially marvellous runners, for the enforced return of Alain Penaud strengthens the backs. Rob Wainwright, the Scottish captain, has but for all their rucking strength the pack lack heef. Nevertheless their ground record favours Scotland.

Though we expected France to beat England more convincingly and less fortunately than they did, most people simultaneously thought Wales at Twickenham would present few problems to the home team. All of a sudden, and for no very good bjective reason - the win over Italy is the only one that comes to mind - Wales are thought to be in with a chance. The popular theory is that they have the backs if only the forwards will provide them with the hall. The Thomases, Arwel, Gareth and Justin, together with Leigh Davies, are particularly mentioned.

I am writing this before the an-

nouncement of the Welsh team. Of those just mentioned, only Justin Thomas at full-back is sure of his place. The prediction is that Kevin Bowring, the Welsh coach, will pre-fer Neil Jenkins 10 Arwel Thomas at outside-half if he can persuade himself that Jenkins is fit. If another old hand, Nigel Davies, is picked in the centre, this teaves only one place alongside him for one of those new, exciting young backs about whom we

have heard so much. What it comes down do is the hal-lowed belief that Wales can beat anyone (even New Zealand on a good day) through native wit, quick think-ing and sleight of hand. Historically, the only period during which the harsh reality matched the fond dream was the 1970s.

Since then, the game has changed on the whole for the worst. As Bowring said in a recent interview, the laws encourage forwards to grind remorselessly up the mid-dle of the field. To his credit, in a way, Geoff Cooke recognised this, and planned accordingly.

Jack Rowell is seeking a more expansive style and, so far, failing. Part of the trouble is simple. It is that most England players seem to find the greatest difficulty in giving a pass, and even more difficulty in taking one. Modern Welsh players are not exempt from this failing either, which I expect to see comprehen-sively displayed at Twickenham. with the outcome decided by the boots of Jenkins or Arwel Thomas and of Paul Grayson.

Adams the catalyst for change

Tom Chesshyre reports from the townships of Cape Town on the big impact made by the progress of South Africa's Test new boy

ga, a township in the suburbs of Cape Town, looks more like a neglected farm field, Clumps of grass in the outfield are almost knee-high and there are numerous sinister grapefruit-sized rat holes, which must have accounted for many a twisted ankle in their time.

The ball bounces all over the est ground to play on," said 15-year-old Barnisile Mbambani, an play soccer, but now cricket is all-rounder with

practice session. possible to hit a four through all the grass and it bas been known change overnight ough to capi-

Langa Cricket

this. Some have at least two wellkept pitches as well as seven or eight practice nets. We only have two nets for practising.

Although South African cricket appears to be on a high after the Test win and the annihilation of England in the one-day series there is a lot of talk of adding the cricket World Cup to rugby's biggest prize), there is a long way to go before the organisation at grass-roots level matches the success of the top flight.

The meteoric rise of Paul Adams, the teenaged spin bowler from a Cape Town township who bewitched England's don't change overnight.

The only cricket pitch in Lan- batsmen after just a handful of games, serves only to highlight the problems.

Adams' effect on young people in the townships has been galvanic. The reaction from a group of kids playing a minileague match in the Cape Town township of Blue Downs when asked who their favourite play-er was, said it all. "Paul place, It's not exactly the easi- Adams!" they bellowed. One

my favourite sport." Another Club during a 'Apartheid is over, added: "Cricket is definitely no an afternoon the government longer a white "It's almost im- changed, but The problem South Africa attitudes don't now faces is to

wave of enthusi-"It's not fair. Most white asm. It is eight years since the guys go to private schools with United Cricket Board was better conditions than formed to bring black and white cricketers together and help the development of young black players, but improvements to

township facilities are slow. Those fighting for better standards are feeling frustrated. "There are still a lot of conservative people around who are very resistant to change," Rushdie Magiet, the Western Province Cricket Association cricket development manager, said. "So we have to fight and fight and fight to give blacks an equal chance. Apartheid is over and the government has changed, but people's attitudes



Top cap: Paul Adams is mobbed by fans at the South Africa v Egypt African Nations' Cup football game in Soweto

"It may take another 50 years or more before the inequalities of apartheid, as far as cricket is concerned, are ironed out. The facilities in most townships are still terrible. Young blacks just cannol compete on level terms with young whites at the

moment Development programmes are at the forefront of the long haul towards equality of cricketing opportunity. The WPCA spends thousands of pounds each year on building all-weather practice nets in townships and has one of the biggest and best-structured mini-cricket leagues for black kids in the country -more than 500 schools take part.

Special training sessions are held for the most talented youngsters in the hope of discovering

ready proved successful. Adams comes from the Cape Town township of Grassy Banks, and is the first coloured player from the development programme to make the Test side.

Developers bope he is not a one-off. Magiet was one of the Test selectors who picked him: We originally put him in the South African A side as a form of affirmative action - his record alone did not justify inclusion. However, be then blossomed, taking a number of

wickets, and we felt it was time to include him in the Test side. "Now everyone wants to be a Paul Adams. But he only got where he is through a lot of hard

future Test players. They have aleasy ride into the Test side. They old black leagues. They don't must prove themselves. We hope Adams is just the first of many players about to come through from townships."

Many top-quality black players in their late 20s and early 30s, however, feel that they are having to put in an unnecessary amount of "hard graft". Faick Davids who scored a half-century for Western Province against England at Newlands, is particularly aggrieved.

"The system is stacked against us," Davids said after thumping another half-century in a league match for Cape Town's Primrose Cricket Club, his local side. "Most of the administrators in the provinces graft and black players must re-alise that they will not get an achievements as players in the as "late 20s. If people knew my

recognise our achievements. We find that we are having to prove ourselves all over again

which puts us under enormous

"I believe we bave to perform thrice as well as white players of similar experience in order to get noticed. If I score a thirty, people look on me as though I have failed, whereas with white players it will normally be seen as a temporary hlip, because the coaches knew all about their past records. If you

have a few unlucky innings in a row, that ait, your chance is up. Players from Davids' era are worried that time is running out. Davids himself would not admit

Photograph: Gary Prior/Allsport

real age they might simply write me off altogether." The main immediate concern for the new generation of black

players, bowever, is for township the England A team visited Langa to meet the township's players, special stands were crected for the occasion and the outfield was, for once, mowed. But it was little more than a publicity stunt.

David Maliza, aged 14, a spin-bowler for Langa, said: The next day the stands were taken down and since then the pitch has just been left to deteriorate. The truth is that the facilities are very, very bad here. If I'd been born white, things would have been much different for me."

SPKINTE PREESTYLE WORLD CUP (More Tremblant, Que-bec, Cae) Mea's serials: 1 C Rjavec (Aut) 237.78pm; 2 A Bane (R) 221.22; 3 B Swentby (US) 221.49, World Cup grand prix standings: 1 Rjavec; 2 K Feddersen (US); 3 Banc; 4 L Lan-gios (Car). Wosson's serials: Cenceled. World Cup grand prix standings: 1 V Brenner (Can); 2 N Stone (US); 3 C Brand (Switz).

Paris rely on France for Super League

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

The bulk of the French national team, plus a cosmopolitan sprinkling of players from else-where in the world, are in the Super League squad named by Paris St-Germain.

The French club, upon whose ability to compete much of the credibility of the European Super League rides, have named 25 players, all with clubs in the

French domestic competition. They include the former Hull and Leeds scrum-half, Patrick Entat, their likely captain, as well as three other players with English club experience in Fred-

eric Banquet, Laurent Lucchese and Regis Pastre. The rest of the squad include a Polish rugby union international, a member of the Moldovan rugby league side and players of Finnish and Moroccan extraction, Paris bave kick off the whole Super League season with their match at bome to Sbeffield Eagles on 29 March.

The holders of the Chalenge Cup, Wigan, will continue their quest for a ninth successive tropby with an away tie at Salford in the fifth round

The amateur club, West Hull, will be at home to the winners of the tie between Carlisle and Wakefield - one of 12 still outstanding from the fourth round. York, beaten by West Hull on facilities to be improved. When | Friday night, have put their entire squad on the transfer list

entire squad on the transfer list in response.
PARIS ST-GERMAIN SQUAD (Super Lengue, March) I Adems (Pans), F Banquet (Wele-field), T Brown (SI Estève), II Cabestary (XIII Catolon), & Gasoon (Litton), D Cobert (SI Estève), D Cope (Corpentras), D Despin (Villenouve), F Devectal (Villenouve), I Divet (Limotry, P Estat (Virgon), P Figes (Po), L Herbert (Pa), K Janver (Pa), P Jampy (XIII) (Catolon), & Kacale (Inyon-Villenbanne), B Lecombe (Villenbane), L Luchebee (Carossorme), R Pastra-Courtine (Villenbane), J Sends (Limotr), F Tebrido (Limotr), I Turner (XIII), E Vergeo (Gronelis), B Valen (you-Villenban), E Vergeo (Villenband or Battely), Salford v Wigen: Develouy or London v Worlongton or Williams, Worldenber of Hallis v Sheffield; Okthem or Warrington v Swetten or Isalis v Sheffield; Okthem or Warrington v Swetten or Isalis v Sheffield; Okthem or Warrington v Swetten or Isalis v Sheffield; Okthem or Villenband or B Heistend (Hill or Funster v Kalgriey or Benow. (Fles to be played on the weekend of 10th/Lith February).

Waugh completes rout as **Boon bows out in style**

والمحارية فأروان ويوري

4. 4.

2 - A

...

Australia 502-9 dec & 215-6 dec Sri Lanka 317 & 252 (Australia win by 148 runs)

Sieve Waugh inflicted a final telling blow upon Sri Lanka on their troubled tour of Australia by steering Australia to a crushing victory in the third Test in Adelaide vesterday.

After heavy defeats in Pertb and Melbourne, the tourists were outplayed once again, los-ing by 148 runs with an hour to spare at The Oval. Chasing a daunting victory target of 401, Sri Lanka were dismissed for 252 in 96.2 overs to complete a 3-0 drubbing in the Test series.

Sri Lanka's fortunes contrasted sharply with the emotional scenes within Mark Taylor's juhilant side as the veteran batsman. David Boon, bowed out of Test cricket on a winning note.

"David is the senior player in the side and also a very good friend so his last game for Australia was the most emotional

7.30 unless stated
ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE FREST DIVISION
Sunderland v Transmere

serington v Preston (7.45)
Sefer v Hardspool (7.45)
When v Scunthorpe (7.45)
When v Scunthorpe (7.45)
When v Scunthorpe (7.45)
Whenpton v Plymouth (7.45)
SIO-ITALIAN (199

NGLO-ITALIAN CUP SEMI-FINAL mulngham v West Broowich (7.45)

THRO DIVISION Barnet v Torquay (7.45) Darlington v Preston (7.

Football

Athletics

Sun broke the previous mark of 4.20m

Basketball

ner. That is very important for the rest of the players." Waugh, who was named player of the series at the close of play, claimed four crucial wickets on the fifth day to add to his century and unbeaten half-century earlier in the match.

moment during my time as cap-tain," Taylor said. "David came

into side in 1984 when the team

was not doing well and be leaves

the Australian side now as a win-

(Final day; Australia won toss) AUSTRALIA – First linnings 502 for 9 dec (S R Waugh 170, M E Waugh 71, I A Healy 70). SRI LANKA - First Indings 317 (H P Tillek-eratre 65, B Ranstungs 60; P R Retifel 5-39). AUSTRALIA - Second limitings 215 for B dec

IS R Waugh 61nol.

SRI LANKA - Second lanings
(Overnight 69 for 1)

ST Layssurine a Healy b 3 Waugh 112

A P Gurnsinns b Resfel 22

S Renaturing a C Healy b 5 Waugh 65

K S Kalkwettneran b 3 Waugh 10

H P Titleterature a Healy b McGrath 37

P A De Sava a Taylor b M Waugh 37

P A De Sava a Taylor b M Waugh 26

K P Wichmeasanghe b Wanne 26

K R Pushpelumara not out 38

Extras (DJ. 16 for 169) 16

Total (96.2 overs) 252

Umpires: L Barker and S Randell.

Sun Calyun, of China, reclaimed the women's world indoor pole vault record on Sunday with a leap of 4.21m at a meeting in the German town of Landau. set four days earlier in Prague by Deniela Barrova, of the Czech Republic.

NBA: Chicago 93 Phoenix 82.

Thailand's offer to stage a heavyweight fight featuring Mike Tyson has been dealt a massive blow by the former world champion's cash demands. Chaowarin Latthasaksiri, the Thai government's deputy education minister, returned from negotations with Don King, Tyson's promoter, in Las Vegas to reveal that the fight would cost £40m. Chaowarin said he was authorised to offer around £33m. Staff of Ferdand's 10-strong amasteur. Eight of England's 10-strong amateur team for the European Championships will face South Africa at the Royal Lan-

team for the European championships will face South Africa at the Royal Lancaster Hotel next Monday. The exceptions from the European sine-up, picked to compete in Velje, Denmark, from 29 March to 8 April, are the middleweight Steve Rendail and the heavyweight Fola Okesola. The European Championships are likely to be very tough this year and Engand must reach the quarter-final stage to stand a chance of Olympic selection.

ENGLAND (v South Africa, Royal Lancaster Hotel, London, 5 February): Flyweight D Costello (Hollington) v K Buhlaiao. Bantanweight M Gibtons (South Bartly v S Mabuza. Featherweight: D Burke (Saisbury) v B Makarna. Light-weitherweight: A Vaughan (Huyton v S Carr. Weitherweight: A Hall (Darfington) v A Segopa. Light-weitherweight: J Branch (Repton) v S Botos.

Cricket A calf muscle injury suffered by Chris Calms, the New Zealand all-rounder, dur-ing Sunday's first limited-overs match against Zimbabwe in Auckland, which

against Zimbabwe in Auckland, which New Zealand won by 74 runs, has ruled him out of the second match in Wellington tomorrow and also means he is unlikely to play in the day-rught match in Napier on Saturday.

SHEFFELD STIELD (final day of four): Sydney: Western Australia 402 (M Hussey 105, 8 Hogg 11/10; J J.Juhn 5-34) and 193 for 4 dec; New South Wales 258 and 220 for 5 UM Bawan 109. Match drawn. Statemer (Quencian 533 for 3 dec (M Hayden 234, M Love 1965; Tarmerin 335 and 330 for 315 Your J 175no). Match drawn. Standings: 1. South Australia (PS, Pt-20); 2 New South Wales (6-18); 3 Tarmerin (6-14); 5 Western Australia (6-14); 5 Vestons (6-4).

land 16-14; S Western Australia (6-14); 5 Victons (6-4).

CASTLE CLIP (final day of four): Duthers Natal 277; Western Province 85 (t. Nuserier 3-34)
and 273 for 7 (6 Ministen 76no, H O Achemistin
50). Martic frame. Port Electrotric Port of Signal 181; Esstern Province 403 and 37 for 0. Eastern Province word by 10 Micketch. Pretotric
Boland 255; Northern Transvala 95 and 335 for
S (M Rindol 81, M Denis 65, R Pienear 50; H
Williams 4-48). Match drawn, Johenmanburg
Transvala 214 and 294 for 8 dec (R Snell 105.
N McKenzle 88); Free State 203 for 7 dec and
301 (C Crawen 90, L Williams 60). Transvalal
word by four runs.
RED STRIPE CUP (Third day of four): Pointeà-Pienre Bartactos 337 and 228 ff Redre 81.no;
A Samerou 4-75); Third day of four): Pointeà-Pienre Bartactos 337 and 228 ff Redre 81.no;
A Samerou 4-75); Third day of four): Pointeà-Pienre Bartactos 337 and 228 ff Redre 81.no;
A Samerou 4-75); Third day of four): Pointeà-Pienre Bartactos 337 and 228 ff Redre 81.no;
A Samerou 4-75); Third day of four): Pointeà-Pienre Bartactos 337 and 228 ff Redre 81.no;
A Samerou 4-75); Third and and Totago 263 and
255 for 8 uS Ragoonsto 85, S C Lara 1199, Angulet Levend blands 250. Windows I blands 199
and 154. Lewendrak won by an innings and evaan man. Ringstone Capara 556 for 5 do uS Cterndernauf 303no, R Harper 124, A Percoal 781;
James a 154 l'Harper 5-38) and 138 for 3.

Football The Shrewsbury Town v Liverpool FA Cup fourth-round tie scheduled for 6 Feb-ruary will now be played the following night (Aprn, all-ticket). Wimbledon yesterday put six players up for sale. Striker Gary Bissett, signed from Brentford for £350,000 in 1993.

SPORTING DIGEST

heads the list which also includes Scott Fitzgerald, Roger Joseph, Justin Skin-ner, Aldan Newhouse and Gerald Dobbs. TRANSFER Andy Areats flowerd; Gillingham to Letton Orients.

Leyton Orient.

Leyton Orient.

LDAN TRANSFERS: Terry Cooks (tornerd)

Manchesser United to Sunderland; Rose barld
son Indender) Sheffleid Und to Chester; Lee

Howarth (defender) Manafeld to Barner; Lee

Howarth (defender) Manafeld to Barner; Lee

Homes (formered) Liverpool to Westham.

ENDSLEICH LEAGUE Third Division; Postponed:

Birmingham's Wolves, Second Division: Post-possed: Coverty vi Aston Vilar, Mansfert vi Port Vale.

AVON INSURANCE CONSERNATION First Divi-sion: Postponsed: Bristol Rovers vi Tottenhem.

SUNDAY'S LATE RESULTS: African Nationa' Cup quarter-fisal (Durban): Turists 1 (Zouber 10) Gabon 1. (Mackeys 16) (20t; Turksis son 4-1 or persolies). Spanish Lengue: Tenente 1 Celts Vigo 7; Adelsto Nadard 4 Ambeto Bibso 1. Istilian Laugue: Forentin 1 Vicenza 1. French Laugue: Science 0 Naries 0. Portagiones Laugue: Chaes 2 Porto 3. Bord Gele League of Ireland: St Patrick's Athletic 2 Durdels: 1.

GOTT
SOUTH ACTRICAN MASTERS (Port Edward) Landing final-round acords (2A miless statistic): 280 W Westers 69 69 70 73, 282 C Wilsons 71 69 69 74 W Schutts 70 72 70 71; PMoore (LS) 69 72 71, 71, 284 M Crestie (US) 57 76 69 72; T0 7ds (Nam) 71 73 70 70, 285 i Hutchings 70 73 74 69; M McNatty (2m) 68 69 72 76, 285 6 Reid 72 70 73 71; FQurn Jun (US) 73 69 72 72, 287 8 Ott (US) 72 74 70 71.

lan Woosnam has moved back into the top 50 in the Sony world rankings following his victory in the Johnnie Walker Classic in Singapore. Until last month, the Weishman was one of only the bloom of the state of the five players never to have been out of the top 50 since the ranking system was introduced 10 years ago.

SONY WORLD RANKINGS: 1 G Normen (Aug.

13.30pts; 2 N Price (Zim) 10.02; 3 E Els (SA)

9.95; 4 C Panan (US) 9.31; 5 B Langer (Ser) 9.13; 6 C Montgomerie (GD) 6.90; 7 M Fakto (GB) 6.17; 8 M Comic (Japon) 7.16; B B Elengen (Aus) 7.05; 1.0 T Leternian (US) 6.61. Other Entirie: 1.7 S Tor-rence 5.25; 36 I Woosnem 3.64; 40 B Lane 3.50; 58 M Jernes 2.87; 59 D Gálford 2.75; 74 H Clerk 2.40; 85 D Clarke 2.05; 97 P Walton 1.80; 98 A Collant 1.75.

er 3 poson 4.

BRITISH LEAGUE Premier division: Cartiff 17 Humbersde 6; Dutham 9 Basingatole 1; Net-cesto 5 Notungham 5; Stough 9 Frie B. First Di-vision: Bracknell 6 Medway 2; Guddiod 5 Dumnes 4; Marnhesser 26 Solfruß 3; Murrayfield 5 Backbum; Paisley 11 Peterborough 4; Telford 4 Swindon Wildotts 11.

Rugby union England A's match against New South Wales, scheduled for fornorow, may be switched to a south-coast venue after Leicester officials reported that their Welford Road pitch could well remain unplayable. Exerting is the most likely venue.

Snow reports

STOCHEST
RESAL WELSH OPEN (Nowport) First round: D
Taylor (N In) bt. P Wykes (Eng. 5-1; R O'Sulivan
(Eng. bt. Y Morchart, (Ind) 5-1; B Snoddon (Sco)
bt. A Robdous (Dan) 5-2; M Willbarns (Web) bt. W
Thome (Eng. 5-1; S Hendry (Sco) bt. M Hellert (Eng.
5-1; D Morgan (Web) bt. O King (Eng. 5-2; D Henyr Sco) bt. T Drago (Melta) 5-4, Second round:
P Hunter (Eng. bt. N Foots (Eng. 5-2; P Endon
(Eng.) bt. A Hernston (Eng. 5-3; T Muspry (N In)
bt. G Willerson (Eng. 5-3; D Taylor (N In) bt. F O'Bern
(Rap. N) 5-4; J Parrott (Eng. bt.) Grech (Mai)
5-0; T Chappel (Wai) bt. T enfither, (Wai) 5-2; J
Higgers (Sco) bt. W Jones (Web, 5-2; D Hendl (Eng.
bt. A Payne (Eng. 5-4; D Henry (Sco) bt. J Gles
(Eng. 5-0; B Sneddon (Sco) bt. R O'Sulivan (Eng.
5-4.

Tim Henman, the British No 1, yester-day gained his highest world ranking of 84, climbing six piaces on the strength

84, climbing six pigoes on the strength of his first-round victory over Petr Korda in the Australian Open.
CROATA MEN'S OPEN (Zagrab) Singles first round: F De War (Be) for F Maroble (Sp) 6-3; Canchez (Sp) in Marques (Por) 6-3 6-4; T Carboned (Sp) for F Vioux (Pr) 6-7 6-2-6-3.
AUP TOUR EMEN'S (Samplan) Singles first round (sallected): T Herman ((Sb) tx, J-P Fleuren (Pr) 6-7 6-2-5: M Petriley ((GB) bt S Campbell IUS) 6-4 6-4.

	conditions Lower)	Conditions (Upper)	Area	Last	Wenther	Forecas
ANDORRA	Lower)	(upper)	open	SDOW		
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Mayrhofen	losed	hard	90%	28.1	misty	ctoud
Waldring	ard	fresh	100%	28.1	clear	modec
BULGARIA						
Borovets	ard	hard	100%	22.1	cloudy	5NO%
FRANCE						
Chemonixp		packed	70%	26.1	SUNNy	settled
Morzine		packed	85%	26.1	SUTTEN	settler
Valmoreip	atchy	packed	80%	26.1	SURNY	settled
ITALY						
Cervinia		powdery	100%	26.1	cloudy	STOV
Gressonay to	resh	powdery	100%	26.1	BL/N	SUON
Madonna	esh	powdery	100%	26.1	cioudy	mater
SWITZERLAND						
Champery		powdery	100%	27.1	cloud	clour
Devosh	erd	packed	100%	7.1	fine	fine
UNITED STATES &	CANADA					
VaBp	ecked	powder	100%	28.1	cloudy	Snor
Whistier	acted	powder	100%	28.1	cloudy	SHOW

TODAY'S NUMBER

10

The years Prince Albert of Monaco has been competing in toplevel bobsleigh. Now the Prince whose brakeman is the royal gardener, is to retire after next month's World Championships.

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SKIFAX 0897 300 330 The Ski Facts 15 (25) 수도 (16)(12.17) (25) 45(25) (16) (25) 15 (25) 수도 (16)(12.17)

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auto windscreens sheld Northern Sevi-Finals fire

Tennew's Scottister (7.46)

Innew's Scottist CIP Three Round

Motherwell v Aberdeen (7.46)

Cydebank v String

Dumbarton v Airdin

Falldk v Stenhorssemuir

Falldrit v Stenhouseamir
Peathponeti Oyde v Durdee (playing tomorous).
BELL'S SCOTTESH LEAGUE
SECOND DRYSSON
Berwick v Forfar
ICIS LEAGUE Prepater Divisions: Dutasch Hamiet v Hayes; Sutton Und v Purfeet. First Devision: Mandethead v Thame; Startes v Abrogon Town; Udwindp v Billeman; (7.45). Second Divisions: Barussad v Coydon; Wierlinde v Brachell 17.45). Third Divisions Aveloy v Hartford (7.45). Genedian Insurance Cup third round:

TODAY'S FIXTURES Ayesbury v Casshahon, Guardian Insurance Cup fourth round: Aldershot v Basingstoke (7.45). Carlton Trophy third round: Carwey Island v Capton; Hungarford v Hampton; Northwood v Wasitsone, Carlton Trophy third round replay: Tibury v East Thurrock. BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE Midland Division: Everyam Lad v Reddigh. Dr Martass Cup foorts round: Craskey v Baktock; Hrickley Town v Moor Green.

UNISOND LEAGUE Pressier Division: Barrow V CONTROL MALLS LEAGUE Premier Division: El-More V Mangossield | 7.45); Paulton Rovers V Brissol Manor Form. JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Tigote v Navirosket,

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Goole v Glasshoughton Wellare. WINSTONIEAD KENT LEASUE First Divisions Folkestone Invicta v Ramsgate (7.45), First Di-vision Cup third-round replay: Whitstable v LEAGUE OF WALES: Liansantifized v Holywell SMEINOFF BRISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Ards v Bangor. CALOR COUNTY ANTROM SHIELD Fisat: Cru-gades v Genevon of The Ord, Belfasti, DANTESE LEAGUE TO THE ORD. BROOK V General for the work possible.

(7.0); Sheffield Utd v Newcastle (7.0) for Bra-mail Lane). Second Division: Manchester Cty v Barnstoy (5.45).

Rugby League

 In view of the adverse weather conditions in parts of the country, speciators are advised to check with vertues before travelling to any out-ager events. Other sports

See Page 22

United fined in FA clampdown over poaching

Football

GUY HODGSON

For a second time in less than three weeks, the Football Association clamped down on Manchester United's aggressive accumulation of young footballing talent yesterday, fining the club £20,000 for poaching a schoolboy from Oldham Athletic.

United, who escaped punishment when they were found guilty of an illegal approach to Arsenal's Matthew Wicks, were not so fortunate over David Brown, 17. In addition to the fine, they must also pay costs of the FA commission's hearing and agree compensation with Oldham. The eventual price could be as much as £100,000.

A spokeswoman for the FA, Claire Tomlinson, said United had fallen foul of Premier League rule 20.9. "The fine reflects the seriousness of the offence," she said. "We don't want any illegal approaches to schoolboys, Clubs spend a lot of money, time and effort on the development of their young players and we feel have to af-ford them protection."

Earlier this month United and dressing-room areas after the reprimanded by the FA wer Wicks—the son of the forwere reprimanded by the FA over Wicks - the son of the former Chelsea defender, Steve hut were spared punishment when the youngster decided to return to Highhury.

United who have maintained their innocence in both cases, are considering an appeal con-cerning Brown and have asked for a clarification of the regulations. Maurice Watkins, a solicitor and club director who presented United's case to FA. said: "I don't think the rules are particularly clear and this was the point I was trying to make before the commission. We need to make it very clear that if a player takes a view that his career is best served elsewhere then, as long as proper com-pensation is payable, then he

can be allowed to move." It was a lucrative day for the FA's disciplinary arm because, in addition to United's fine, the Middlesbrough manager, Bryan Robson, was docked £750 and his players Neil Cox and Nigel Pearson £500 each after being found guilty of hringing the game into disrepute.

The charges related to incidents near the players' tunnel

Motherwell hope to avoid another blank

Satellite television producers are hoping that today's match at Motherwell will not leave them screening another hlankety-blank, Motherwell play Aber-deen in the Tennent's Scottish Cup third round, with Sky Sports hoping to break four and a half hours of goalless action from Fir Park. They drew 0-0 in three televised games in 1995, against Hibernian, Hearts and Rangers. Alex McLeish, the Mother-

well manager, yesterday told his goal-shy players: "Cup glory can help our survival battle."

He is desperate to start a winning run after waiting 15 games for his side's last victory. An own goal by Joe McLaughlin of Falkirk last Tuesday lifted Motherwell above Falkirk on goal difference in the Premier League relegation battle.

ference around Fir Park in the past week," McLeish said. "The game was a scrap and it is going to be that way from now on for us in the league. A Cup win winning breeds confidence."

McLeish could recall Chris McCart, the Motherwell captain, after a two-month absence. But he is angry at a ruling by the Scottish FA which will cost Willie Falconer, a recent ar-

his former clubs. a fortnight ago, but he is incligible because he signed less than 14 days before 27 January, the scheduled date for the match before it was switched for television. John Hendry or Alex Burns will replace Falconer.

found guilty of making foul and abusive remarks to referee Paul Danson after Middleshrough'a 1-0 defeat and warned about their future conduct.

There could be trouble looming, too, for Ian Wright, who has been ordered to appear before a disciplinary committee to discuss remarks he made about referees on Arsenal's club-call scribed some officials as "little Hitlers". Arsenal's manager, Bruce Rioch, has apologised to the FA for his part in a touch-line confrontation with the Newcastle coach, Terry Mc-Dermott, during a Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final at Highbury on 10 January. "Mr Rioch apol-ogised, stressing in his letter that the incident was purely verbal and nothing else," an FA spokesman, Steve Double, said.

On the transfer front the wave of foreign imports appears likely to be swelled by the Brazilian international, Branco, who is in line to join his compatriot, Juninho, at Middlesbrough. He is valued at around Ein hut Boro expect to get him for considerably less because the full-back holds his own regis-tration. The club has applied for a work permit for him.

West Ham are also looking abroad, having made a £2.5m offer for the player described as Portugal's Ryan Giggs, Sporting Lisbon's Dani, The 18-yearold striker flies to London tomorrow to join the Hammers for the rest of the season with a view to a permanent move.

Newcastle United yesterday were still not responding to re-ports that the Colombian striker, Faustino Asprilla, had failed a medical, which has stalled his proposed £6.7m move from Parma. The Italian club's coach, Nevio Scala, insisted all was well. "It's nonsense to say he's carrying an injury... He has been in training and playing for Falconer arrived from Celtic me and I am not aware of any medical problems."

Wolves last night rejected a £3m offer from Coventry for Dean Richards, the England Under-21 defender for whom they paid Bradford City £1.8m



Cleo hands: Arnold Palmer prepares for Jim Colbert's praise after a birdle during a skins game in Hawaii

Beaten Coltart backed to win

Ian Woosnam may be the man of the moment again after his victory in the Johnnie Walker Classic, but he took the time yesterday to offer words of encouragement to the man he beat in the playoff in Singapore.

Andrew Coltart was the

victim when Woosnam twice holed long putts on the 18th green on Sunday, one taking him into a play-off with the 25-year-old Scot, the other to win the title. Before heading off for the Heineken Classic, starting in Perth, Australia, on Thursday, Woosnam told Coltart: "I think you'll soon win, and if it's any consolation I hope you beat me the next time we meet in a play-off."

Sunday's victory, worth £100,000, was Woosnam's 37th as a professional and took tis earnings on the European Rour alone to nearly £4.3m. However, the timing of his triumph was the important thing to the former world No 1 as it was that it came just when people - and he himself - were wondering if he would ever hit

the heights again.
His Japanese club spon-sors, Maruman, did not renew their contract at the end of last season and Woosnam was worried about the state of his back. "I was thinking then that if my back was going to be like that for the rest of my life I didn't want to play."
At Tanah Merah, though,

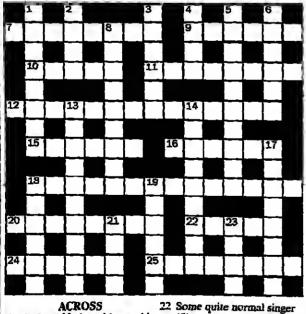
he was unrecognisable from the figure who had put two putters - one long, one short - in his bag in the second round of the German Open last August because he did not know the best way forward. Woosnam has altered his

swing and has been working

with Colin Montgomerie's coach, Bill Ferguson. He also gave his back as much rest as he could in a 10-week lay-off prior to going to Singapore. Raymond Floyd won five skins worth \$180,000 (£120,000) with a tap-in put on Sunday and collected \$240,000 in all to win his third successive Senior Skins Game at the Mauna Lani Resort in Hawaii. Jim Colbert. the 1995 Senior Tour Player of the Year, won \$180,000, while Arnold Palmer picked up \$80,000 and Jack Nicklaus \$40,000.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

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Perhaps Ned, at this, would have nothing to do? (5.3) 24 Binder's awfully weak in Account covers a US make-up (6)

agency's growth (6)
10 Opera depicts love in development of acts (5)

11 Deny it, it's wrong to be in

12 One doesn't believe him to be an apostle (8,6) 15 Playing a harp I will be one

16 Not subject to poor mum in Spain (6) 18 Engine could get one into

20 To intimidate brother

women use whip (8)

excluded from society (6) 3 Leeds with use of current

make-up (6)
25 Sounding off I press horn hard seeing canine (3-5)

DOWN Cajole into daft bit of TV? 17 Disturbed at regime? Do

(4-4) this! (8)
One US girl could be a god- 18 Brave beloved one loses dess (4) Moving slowly to extremity? 19 One or other article in Ire-

In France the first person to 21 carry publicity for stone (4) Equivalent to an army sur- 23 Name applied to one scintilrounding termite's hill? (10) Interruption for a man get-ting about one Tuesday (6)

Time to lay the law down heartlessly and go for exter-

mination (9) 13 One could be pointedly confined by this (6.4)

14 House of Horror to east responsible for deformity (6-

heart (6)

land must be cut (6) Familiar young Prince in a bit of turbulence? (4) lating source of light? (4)

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BBC claims England v Scotland



it would prefer to forget when it came to losing contracts for big sporting occasions, will be screening the most eagerly awaited football match of the European Champ-

which had a 1995

ionship finals this summer. It will show England's match against Scotland at Wembley on 15 June while ITV will have coverage of both England's and Scotland's opening matches, plus the probable deciding games in the group: Scotland versus

Switzerland and England against the Netherlands. All these matches will be screened live. "The game has captured the imagination of football fans north and south of the border."

duction for BBCTV sport, said land at Wembley on 8 June of the England v Scotland con-BBC Television,

"It's a massive match, the focus of the opening round. I feel cover the final live. confident the game will attract a similar audience to the near 17 million who watched the 1990 World Cup semi-final between England and West Germany on BBC." The contract for Euro 96, the

occasion to take place in England since the 1966 World Cup. was secured several years ago before BSkyB was able to flex its financial muscle. As a result terrestrial television will have a monopoly, acting as broadcaster both domestically and around the world.

ITV's head of football, Jeff Farmer, said: "We negotiated a sensible arrangement with the BBC and I am delighted with ITV's package." The event Brian Barwick, head of pro- starts with England v Switzer-

which will screened by ITV and reaches a climax on 30 June when both BBC and ITV will

The BBC will have first choice of the quarter-finals when the competition reaches its knock-out phase but, if either Scotland or England reach the semi-finals, it is probable both TV companies will provide covhiggest international sporting erage. There will be no duplication of live games until the final stages and each broad-caster has the first option to screen highlights of matches they have not covered live.

they have not covered live.

ERROPEAN CHARPONSHIP Totalean schodule: BBCs 9 Junes Cermany v Creen Republic, Dermark v Portugal. 10 Junes: Romanis v Farce, 11 Junes Baye Russia, 13 Junes: Bayes: India v Netherlands. 14 Junes: Portugal v Integrator v Dermark. 18 Junes: France v Bulgarit; Romana v Spein. 19 June: Russia v Casth Republic; Rally v Germany. RV: 8 Junes: England v Switzerland. 9 Junes: Spein. 19 June: Russia v Casth Republic; Rally v Germany. RV: 8 Junes: England v Switzerland. 9 Junes: Spein. 14 Junes: Russia v Casth Republic. 15 Junes: Printer v Spein. 18 Junes: Russia v Germany. 18 June: Russia v Germany. 18 June: England v Netherlands, Scotland v Switzerland. 18 Junes: Russia v Germany.

Magic makes his comeback

legend who stunned America and largely retired from professional sport after announcing that he had tested HIV-positive is due to play for the Los Angeles Lakers, his old team, tonight for the first time he a media sensation, Johnson in four and a half years. he a media sensation, Johnson was mobbed by reporters when

Johnson signed a contract vesterday to play for the rest of the season for a reported \$2.5m (£1.6m) and sold his five per cent share in the club, as required by National Basketball Association rules.

Johnson, 36, led the Lakers to five NBA championships in the 1980s. He retired in No-vember 1991 after announcing that he had tested HIV-positive. although he went on to lead the United States Olympic "Dream Team" in 1992.

times named the NBA's Most screen complex at a shopping Valuable Player, returned to the sport because he wanted his three-year-old son. Earvin III. to see him play, he has said. His comeback, against Gold-

Magic Johnson, the basketball Tim Cornwell reports from Los Angeles on a legend's sudden return to basketball

> he arrived at practice yesterday with a broad smile on his face. "Yes, I am back, and I'll see you guys later," he said. "Hey,

I'm back. It's that time. I have to go lo work." Last summer, Johnson said he would "never" The signing of the contract

was delayed as he apparently struggled with whether to put a successful business career on hold and risk discrediting his own legend. Johnson opened the Magic Johnson Movie The 6ft 9in Johnson, three Theatre last year, a hi-tech 12centre in South-Central Los Angeles, a tough neighbourhood devastated in the 1992 riots. Its phenomenal success since its opening it has ranked en State Warriors, promises to in the top five of 22,000 cine-

held up Johnson locally as a new star of black entrepre-

neurship. Johnson weighs in at 250lb 25th more than when he last played for the Lakers, and has been playing mostly in exhibi-tion games. Although it was unclear what position he would play, his team-mates said he brings a winner's attitude and would boost the attendances for a team that has suffered a mixed record since he left.

"He adds so much," Sedale Threatt, the Lakers guard, said. "He can play five positions, I think teams will have to concentrate on him, and with the nucleus we already have it will make us the best team in the

After the game today, John-son could face another NBA legend, Michael Jordan, when the Lakers play the Chicago Bulls on Friday. Another member of the Lakers, Cedric Ceballos, said Johnson wanted to play today to "warm himself up for Michael Jordan."

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